

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark
Office
Box PCT
Washington, D.C.20231
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 14 July 2000 (14.07.00)	
International application No. PCT/DK99/00649	Applicant's or agent's file reference 21959 PC 1
International filing date (day/month/year) 23 November 1999 (23.11.99)	Priority date (day/month/year) 23 November 1998 (23.11.98)
Applicant STAHL, Bronislaw-Jan	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
13 June 2000 (13.06.00)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was
☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Manu Berrod Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 21959 PC 1	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/DK 99/ 00649	International filing date (day/month/year) 23/11/1999	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 23/11/1998
Applicant DANDY A/S et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the title,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

☒ **None of the figures.**

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US92/09705

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(5) :A23G 3/30

US CL :426/4

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 426/3,5 AND 6

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US,A, 3,984,574 (Comollo) 05 October 1976 See entire document.	1-27
Y	US,A, 4,241,090 (Stroz et al.) 23 December 1980 See entire document.	1-27
Y	US,A, 4,409,244 (Cherukuri et al.) 11 October 1983 See entire document.	1-27
A	US,A, 2,076,112 (Barker) 06 April 1937.	1-27

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.
 ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	* T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
* A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be part of particular relevance	* X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
* E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	* Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
* L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	* A document member of the same patent family
* O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
* P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

28 JANUARY 1993

Date of mailing of the international search report

08 FEB 1993

 Name and mailing address of the ISA/US
 Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
 Box PCT
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. NOT APPLICABLE

Authorized officer

JEANETTE M. HUNTER

Telephone No. (703) 308-3849

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/DK 99/00649

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: A23G 3/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: A23G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 0414932 A1 (CSEMEGE EDESIPARI GYAR), 6 March 1991 (06.03.91) --	1-44
Y	US 4385071 A (DONNA YAKIMISCHAK), 24 May 1983 (24.05.83) --	1-44
Y	US 4317838 A (SUBRAMAN R. CHERUKURI ET AL), 2 March 1982 (02.03.82) --	1
A	--	2-44
A	WO 9309678 A1 (WM. WRIGLEY JR. COMPANY), 27 May 1993 (27.05.93) --	1-44



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

8 March 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

18. 04. 2000

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority
European Patent Office P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel(+31-70)340-2040, Tx 31 651 epo nl,
Fax(+31-70)340-3016

Authorized officer

EVA JOHANSSON/EÖ
Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/DK 99/00649

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	WO 9006689 A1 (WM. WRIGLEY JR. COMPANY), 28 June 1990 (28.06.90) --	1-44
A	EP 0426428 A1 (WARNER-LAMBERT COMPANY), 8 May 1991 (08.05.91) --	1-44
A	EP 0717986 A1 (MCNEIL-PPC, INC.), 26 June 1996 (26.06.96) -- -----	1-44

SA 258483

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

02/12/99

International application No.

PCT/DK 99/00649

Patent document cited in search report			Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP	0414932	A1	06/03/91	NONE	
US	4385071	A	24/05/83	NONE	
US	4317838	A	02/03/82	AU 534011 B AU 6016680 A BE 884317 A DE 3025646 A FR 2486364 A,B GB 2079129 A,B ZA 8005473 A	22/12/83 14/01/82 15/01/81 28/01/82 15/01/82 20/01/82 30/09/81
WO	9309678	A1	27/05/93	AU 667494 B AU 3072492 A CA 2121258 A,C EP 0679061 A US 5266336 A	28/03/96 15/06/93 27/05/93 02/11/95 30/11/93
WO	9006689	A1	28/06/90	NONE	
EP	0426428	A1	08/05/91	AU 6565990 A CA 2028934 A CN 1051290 A DE 69002730 T FI 905333 D JP 3160969 A NO 904693 A PT 95734 A	09/05/91 01/05/91 15/05/91 09/12/93 00/00/00 10/07/91 02/05/91 13/09/91
EP	0717986	A1	26/06/96	BR 9505940 A CN 1130061 A US 5529783 A	23/12/97 04/09/96 25/06/96

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION CONCERNING
SUBMISSION OR TRANSMITTAL
OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

(PCT Administrative Instructions, Section 411)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

PLOUGMANN, VINGTOFT & PARTNERS A/S
Sankt Annæ Plads 11
P.O. Box 3007
DK-1021 Copenhagen K
DANEMARK

PLOUGMANN
VINGTOFT
& PARTNERS

7 - FEB. 2000

AML/AK

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 13 January 2000 (13.01.00)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference 21959 PC 1	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
International application No. PCT/DK99/00649	International filing date (day/month/year) 23 November 1999 (23.11.99)
International publication date (day/month/year) Not yet published	Priority date (day/month/year) 23 November 1998 (23.11.98)
Applicant DANDY A/S et al	

- The applicant is hereby notified of the date of receipt (except where the letters "NR" appear in the right-hand column) by the International Bureau of the priority document(s) relating to the earlier application(s) indicated below. Unless otherwise indicated by an asterisk appearing next to a date of receipt, or by the letters "NR", in the right-hand column, the priority document concerned was submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b).
- This updates and replaces any previously issued notification concerning submission or transmittal of priority documents.
- An asterisk (*) appearing next to a date of receipt, in the right-hand column, denotes a priority document submitted or transmitted to the International Bureau but not in compliance with Rule 17.1(a) or (b). In such a case, the attention of the applicant is directed to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.
- The letters "NR" appearing in the right-hand column denote a priority document which was not received by the International Bureau or which the applicant did not request the receiving Office to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau, as provided by Rule 17.1(a) or (b), respectively. In such a case, the attention of the applicant is directed to Rule 17.1(c) which provides that no designated Office may disregard the priority claim concerned before giving the applicant an opportunity, upon entry into the national phase, to furnish the priority document within a time limit which is reasonable under the circumstances.

<u>Priority date</u>	<u>Priority application No.</u>	<u>Country or regional Office or PCT receiving Office</u>	<u>Date of receipt of priority document</u>
23 Nove 1998 (23.11.98)	PA 1998 01540	DK	17 Dece 1999 (17.12.99)

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Taieb Akremi <i>TA</i> Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38
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WO 00/30465
PCT/DK99/00649

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE
COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES

(PCT Rule 47.1(c), first sentence)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

PLOUGMANN, VINGTOFT & PARTNERS A/S
Sankt Annæ Plads 11
P.O. Box 3007
DK-1021 Copenhagen K
DANEMARK

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 02 June 2000 (02.06.00)		IMPORTANT NOTICE	
Applicant's or agent's file reference 21959 PC 1			
International application No. PCT/DK99/00649	International filing date (day/month/year) 23 November 1999 (23.11.99)	Priority date (day/month/year) 23 November 1998 (23.11.98)	
Applicant DANDY A/S et al			

1. Notice is hereby given that the International Bureau has communicated, as provided in Article 20, the international application to the following designated Offices on the date indicated above as the date of mailing of this Notice:
AU,CN,JP,KP,KR,MA,US

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c), third sentence, those Offices will accept the present Notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the international application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

2. The following designated Offices have waived the requirement for such a communication at this time:
AE,AL,AM,AP,AT,AZ,BA,BB,BG,BR,BY,CA,CH,CR,CU,CZ,DE,DK,DM,EA,EE,EP,ES,FI,GB,GD,GE,
GH,GM,HR,HU,ID,IL,IN,IS,KE,KG,KZ,LC,LK,LR,LS,LT,LU,LV,MD,MG,MK,MN,MW,MX,NO,NZ,OA,
PL,PT,RO,RU,SD,SE,SG,SI,SK,SL,TJ,TM,TR,TT,TZ,UA,UG,UZ,VN,YU,ZA,ZW
The communication will be made to those Offices only upon their request. Furthermore, those Offices do not require the applicant to furnish a copy of the international application (Rule 49.1(a-bis)).

3. Enclosed with this Notice is a copy of the international application as published by the International Bureau on
02 June 2000 (02.06.00) under No. WO 00/30465

REMINDER REGARDING CHAPTER II (Article 31(2)(a) and Rule 54.2)

If the applicant wishes to postpone entry into the national phase until 30 months (or later in some Offices) from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed with the competent International Preliminary Examining Authority before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date.

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to monitor the 19-month time limit.

Note that only an applicant who is a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State which is bound by Chapter II has the right to file a demand for international preliminary examination.

REMINDER REGARDING ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL PHASE (Article 22 or 39(1))

If the applicant wishes to proceed with the international application in the national phase, he must, within 20 months or 30 months, or later in some Offices, perform the acts referred to therein before each designated or elected Office.

For further important information on the time limits and acts to be performed for entering the national phase, see the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 (Notification of Receipt of Record Copy) and Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer J. Zahra
Facsimile No. (41-22) 740.14.35	Telephone No. (41-22) 338.83.38

WO 00/30465
PCT/DK99/00649

Continuation of Form PCT/IB/308

NOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE COMMUNICATION OF
THE INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 02 June 2000 (02.06.00)	IMPORTANT NOTICE
Applicant's or agent's file reference 21959 PC 1	International application No. PCT/DK99/00649
<p>The applicant is hereby notified that, at the time of establishment of this Notice, the time limit under Rule 46.1 for making amendments under Article 19 has not yet expired and the International Bureau had received neither such amendments nor a declaration that the applicant does not wish to make amendments.</p>	

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the:
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

PLOUGMANN, VINGTOFT & PARTNERS A/S
Sankt Annae Plads 11
P.O. Box 3007
DK-1021 Copenhagen K
DANEMARK

PLOUGMANN
VINGTOFT
& PARTNERS

30 AUG. 2000

Amc/Han

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION

(PCT Rule 66)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 21959 PC 1		Date of mailing (day/month/year) 28.08.2000	
REPLY DUE		within 3 month(s) from the above date of mailing	
International application No. PCT/DK99/00649	International filing date (day/month/year) 23/11/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 23/11/1998	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A23G3/30			
Applicant DANDY A/S et al.			

1. This written opinion is the **first** drawn up by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.
2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain document cited
 - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application
3. The applicant is hereby **invited to reply** to this opinion.


When? See the time limit indicated above. The applicant may, before the expiration of that time limit, request this Authority to grant an extension, see Rule 66.2(d).

How? By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3. For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

Also: For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4.
For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4 bis.
For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6.

If no reply is filed, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.
4. The final date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is: **23/03/2001**.

Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:

 European Patent Office
D-80298 Munich
Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d
Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

Authorized officer / Examiner

Pregetter, M

Formalities officer (incl. extension of time limits)

Tantum, P

Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8143



I. Basis of the opinion

1. This opinion has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed"*):

Description, pages:

1-51 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-44 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/12-12/12 as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages:

☐ the claims, Nos.:

☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. This opinion has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-13, 15-34, 36-41
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US 4 385 071 A (DONNA YAKIMISCHAK) 24 May 1983

D2: US 4 317 838 A (SUBRAMAN R. CHERUKURI ET AL) 2 March 1982

2. For the interpretation of the present claims see item VIII, point 1.
3. The subject-matter of present claims 1, 22 and 42 is not novel according to Article 33(2) PCT.
- 3.1. Document D1 discloses a chewing gum which comprises an insoluble gum base, a water soluble portion (sugar or sugar free sweetener) and a coating. The coating is flavoured with spearmint flavour (a natural vegetable flavour) (col.1, l.19-35). The method according to claim 22 is implicitly disclosed. D1 states that the chewing gum is produced by conventional methods (col.2, l.4-6), the present application is defining only the basic conventional method of manufacturing coated chewing gum in claim 22. There is no doubt the use of a natural vegetable component as a flavouring agent (as defined in present claim 42) is also disclosed.
- 3.2. Document D2 describes the use of natural vegetable flavouring in the coating of a chewing gum. The flavourings used are oils derived from plants, leaves, flowers and fruits (col.4, l.55-col.5, l.5).
4. The dependent claims 2-13, 15-21, 23-34, 36-41 do not contain additional technical features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, might establish novelty and an inventive step over D1 to D2 (Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT). These claims are only allowable in combination with patentable independent claims.

Re Item VIII

Certain observations on the international application

Claim 14 + 35 OK

1. The term "natural vegetable flavouring agent" used in the claims is vague and unclear and leaves the reader in doubt as to the meaning of this technical feature, thereby rendering the definition of the subject-matter of the claims unclear (Article 6 PCT).

Page 2, l. 11 - 31 disclose that the surprising effect of the natural vegetable flavouring component is due to the content of cellular material from the plant. Flavour powders, known in the art, lose much of their characteristics during extraction and spray drying. P.4, l.1-3 describe the use of "all parts of the plant". However, the term "natural vegetable flavouring agent" does not limit the scope of the claims to compositions comprising cellular material from plants. The term "natural vegetable flavouring agent" includes plant extracts and flavour oils (peppermint, ...). This fact is further supported by claims 42-44 which imply that a natural vegetable component does not necessarily include cellular material.

2. Optional features, i.e. features after expressions like "such as", "preferably" or "e.g." are not taken into account when assessing novelty or inventive step of the subject-matter of a claim.
3. Claims 7-9 are unclear (Article 6 PCT). Claim 7 states that the flavouring agent is dried. This seems to imply that the flavouring agent is only dried after having been added to the coating and would present a process step in a claim directed to a composition. It is assumed that the claim should define a flavouring agent which has been dried or is dry. However, claims 8 and 9, referring directly to claim 7, cast further doubt on the meaning of claim 7. A natural flavouring agent with a water content of less than 75% (claim 8) or less than 20% (claim 9) is not considered to be dry. *delete ?*
The same unclarity as in claim 7 is present in claim 10.
4. Claims 16, 17 and 37 are not clear. It is stated that the flavouring agent is used in the coating of the gum and in the chewing gum formulation. A chewing gum formulation has not been defined and cannot be found in the description. It is supposed that the term "chewing gum formulation" relates to all parts of the chewing gum except the coating.

**WRITTEN OPINION
SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/DK99/00649

5. Claims 6 and 27 mention raspberry and pineapple twice. In claim 5 the term "in the coating" is used twice.
6. Claim 37 should probably read "A method according to any of claims 22-36".

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

**PLOUGMANN
VINGTOFT
& PARTNERS**

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

02 MAR. 2001

PCT

FLU/AK

To:

PLOUGMANN, VINGTOFT & PARTNERS A/S
Sankt Annae Plads 11
P.O. Box 3007
DK-1021 Copenhagen K
DANEMARK

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing (day/month/year)	28.02.2001
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Applicant's or agent's file reference 21959 PC 1	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
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International application No. PCT/DK99/00649	International filing date (day/month/year) 23/11/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 23/11/1998
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Applicant DANDY A/S et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Longo, E Tel. +49 89 2399-8141
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 21959 PC 1	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416) FOR FURTHER ACTION	
International application No. PCT/DK99/00649	International filing date (day/month/year) 23/11/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 23/11/1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A23G3/30		
Applicant DANDY A/S et al.		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of 6 sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application 		
Date of submission of the demand 13/06/2000	Date of completion of this report 28.02.2001	
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 23399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 23399 - 4465	Authorized officer Pregetter, M Telephone No. +49 89 23399 8719	



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/DK99/00649

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of *(substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).)*.

Description, pages:

1-51 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-43 with telefax of 27/11/2000

Drawings, sheets:

1/12-12/12 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☒ the claims, Nos.: 44

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/DK99/00649

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-43
	No:	Claims	

Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-43
	No:	Claims	

Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-43
	No:	Claims	

- 2. Citations and explanations**
see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/DK99/00649

Re It m V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The subject-matter of claims 1-43 is considered to fulfill the requirements of Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT.

None of the documents cited in the search report mentions the presence of cellular material or seeds of plants (fruits or vegetables) in the coating of chewing gum. None of the documents suggests to use cellular material from plants as flavouring agents in the field of chewing gums. The usual flavouring compounds are natural flavour oils and artificial flavours.

CLAIMS

REPLACED BY
ART 34 AMDT

1. A chewing gum comprising
 - a) an insoluble gum base;
 - 5 b) a water soluble portion;
 - c) a coating comprising a flavouring agent wherein at least 10 % by weight of the flavouring agent is a natural vegetable flavouring agent.
2. A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein at least 20% by weight such as at
10 least 30 % by weight preferable as at least 40%, more preferred at least 50%, still more preferred at least 60% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent.
3. A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein at least 70 % by weight such as at
15 least 80%, preferable at least 90%, more preferred at least 95% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is natural vegetable flavouring agent.
4. A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein at least 95 % by weight such as at
least 98%, preferable about 100% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is
20 a natural vegetable flavouring agent.
5. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating in the coating is selected from fruit and herbs.
25
6. A chewing gum according to any of claims 1- 5 wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating is the is selected from coconut, grape fruit, orange, lime, lemon, mandarin, pineapple, strawberry, raspberry, mango, passion fruit, kiwi, apple, pear, peach, strawberry, apricot, raspberry, cherry, pineapple, grapes, banana,
30 cranberry, blueberry, black current, red current, gooseberry, and lingon berries, thyme, basil, camille, valerian, fennel, parsley, camomile, tarragon, lavender, dill, cumin, bergamot, salvia, aloe vera balsam, spearmint, peppermint, eucalyptus and mixtures thereof.

7. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claim wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is dried.
8. A chewing gum according to claim 7 wherein the water content of the natural
5 flavouring agent in the coating is less than 75% by weight, such as less than 60%, preferable less than 40%, more preferred less than 30%, such as less than 25%.
9. A chewing gum according to claim 7 wherein the water content of the natural
10 flavouring agent in the coating is less than 20% by weight, such as less than 15%, more preferred less than 10% such as between 1.5-7%, more preferred between 2-6%.
10. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims wherein the natural
15 flavouring agent in the coating is freeze-dried.
11. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims wherein the natural
flavouring agent in the coating is in the form of a powder, slices or pieces of combinations thereof.
- 20 12. A chewing gum according to claim 11 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is in a form where the particle size is less than 3 mm, such as less than 2 mm, more preferred less than 1mm, calculated as the longest dimension of the particle.
- 25 13. A chewing gum according to claim 11 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is in a form where the particle size is from about 3 μ to 2 mm, such as from 4 μ to 1 mm.
- 30 14. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating comprises seeds from a fruit e.g. from strawberry, blackberry and raspberry, and which seeds are substantially intact.

15. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating also provides the chewing gum with natural colour.
- 5 16. A chewing gum according to any of the proceeding claims wherein the natural flavouring agent is used in the coating of the gum and in the chewing gum formulation.
- 10 17. A chewing gum according to claim 16 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating and in the chewing gum formulation provides natural colour to the chewing gum.
- 15 18. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating provides the chewing gum with a basic colour
19. A chewing gum according to claim 18 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating provides the chewing gum with a basic colour as well as more intense colour spots.
- 20 20. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims comprising from 5% to 85% by weight of a gum base material.
21. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims comprising one or more of the following:
- 25 at least one softener; a bulk sweetener; a high intensity sweetener; an emulsiifier; an elastomer plasticizer; an elastomer; a mono-diglyceride; a sucrose fatty acid ester.
22. A method for preparing a chewing gum composition comprising providing a mixture of
- 30 a) an insoluble gum base; and
b) a water soluble portion;
c) forming chewing gum pieces

d) coating the chewing gum pieces with a coating comprising a flavouring agent wherein at least 10 % by weight of the flavouring agent is a natural vegetable flavouring agent.

- 5 23. A method according to claim 22 wherein at least 10 % by weight such as at least 20%, preferable at least 30%, more preferred at least 40% by weight, such as about 50% of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent.
- 10 24. A method according to any of claims 22 and 23 wherein at least 60 % by weight, such as at least 70%, preferable at least 80%, more preferred at least 90% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent.
- 15 25. A method according to any of claims 22 to 24 wherein at least 95 % by weight, preferable at least 98%, such as about 100% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent.
- 20 26. A method according to any of claims 22 to 25 wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating is selected from fruits and herbs.
- 25 27. A method according to claim any of claims 22-26 wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating is the is selected from coconut, grape fruit, orange, lime, lemon, mandarin, pineapple, strawberry, raspberry, mango, passionfruit, kiwi, apple, pear, peach, strawberry, apricot, raspberry, cherry, pineapple, grapes, banana, cranberry, blueberry, blackcurrent, redcurrent, gooseberry, and lingonberries, thyme, basil, camille, valerian, fennel, parsly, camomille, tarragon, lavender, dild, cumin, bargamot, salvie, aloe vera balsam, spearmint, peppermint, eucalyptus and mixtures thereof.
- 30 28. A method according to any of claims 22 to 27 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is dried.

29. A method according to any of claims 22 to 28 wherein the water content of the natural flavouring agent in the coating is less than 75% by weight, such as less than 60%, preferable less than 40%, more preferred less than 30%, such as less than 25%.

5

30. A method according to any of claims 22 to 29 wherein the water content of the natural flavouring agent in the coating is less than 20% by weight, such as less than 15%, more preferred less than 10% such as between 1.5-7%, more preferred between 2-6%.

10

31. A method according to any of claims 22 to 30 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is freeze-dried.

32. A method according to any of claims 22 to 31 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is in the form of a powder, slices or pieces or combinations thereof.

33. A method according to claim 32 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is in a form where the particle size is less than 3 mm, such as less than 2 mm, more preferred less than 1 mm, calculated as the longest dimension of the particle.

34. A method according to any of claims wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is in a form where the particle size is from about 3 μ to 2 mm, such as from 4 μ to 1 mm.

25
30

35. A method according to any of claims 22 to 34 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating comprises seeds from a fruit e.g. from strawberry, blackberry and raspberry, and which seeds are substantially intact.

36. A method according to any of claims 22 to 35 wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating also provides the chewing gum with natural colour.

37. A method according to any of claims 22 to wherein the natural flavouring agent is also used in the chewing gum formulation.

38. A method according to any of claims 22 to 37 wherein the natural flavouring
5 agent in the coating provides natural colour to the coating.

39. A method according to claim 38 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating provides the chewing gum coating with a basic colour as well as more intense colour spots.

10

40. A method according to any of claims 22 to 39 wherein the gum base material constitutes from 5% to 85% by weight of the chewing gum.

41. A method according to any of claims 22 to 40 comprising adding one or more of
15 the following ingredients to the chewing gum formulation:
at least one softener; a bulk sweetener; a high intensity sweetener; an emulsifier; an elastomer plasticizer; an elastomer; a mono-diglyceride; a sucrose fatty acid ester.

42. Use of a natural vegetable component as flavouring agent in the coating in a
20 chewing gum as described in any of claims 1-21.

43. Use according to claim 42 wherein the natural vegetable component comprises cellular material of the natural component.

25 44. Use according to claim 43 wherein the cellular material comprises substantial intact cellular components.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



14

Applicant's or agent's file reference 21959 PC 1	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/DK99/00649	International filing date (day/month/year) 23/11/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 23/11/1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC A23G3/30		
Applicant DANDY A/S et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.


2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 6 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 13/06/2000	Date of completion of this report 28.02.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Pregetter, M Telephone No. +49 89 2399 8719



INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/DK99/00649

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of *(substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).)*:

Description, pages:

1-51 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-43 with telefax of 27/11/2000

Drawings, sheets:

1/12-12/12 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☒ the claims, Nos.: 44

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/DK99/00649

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-43
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-43
	No:	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-43
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations
see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/DK99/00649

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The subject-matter of claims 1-43 is considered to fulfill the requirements of Articles 33(2) and 33(3) PCT.

None of the documents cited in the search report mentions the presence of cellular material or seeds of plants (fruits or vegetables) in the coating of chewing gum. None of the documents suggests to use cellular material from plants as flavouring agents in the field of chewing gums. The usual flavouring compounds are natural flavour oils and artificial flavours.

1

International Patent Application No. PCT/DK99/00649

Publication No. WO 00/30465

DANDY A/S

Our ref: 21959 PC 1

5

CLAIMS FOR RESPONDING TO WRITTEN OPINION DATED 28.08.00

CLAIMS

- 10 1. A chewing gum comprising
- a) an insoluble gum base;
 - b) a water soluble portion;
 - c) a coating comprising a flavouring agent wherein at least 10% by weight of the
- 15 plant. flavouring agent is a natural vegetable flavouring agent comprising cellular material from a
2. A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein at least 20% by weight such as at least 30% by weight preferable at least 40%, more preferred at least 50%, still more preferred at least 60% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable
- 20 flavouring agent comprising cellular material from a plant.
3. A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein at least 70% by weight such as at least 80%, preferable at least 90%, more preferred at least 95% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent comprising cellular material
- 25 from a plant.
4. A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein at least 95% by weight such as at least 98%, preferable about 100% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent comprising cellular material from a plant.
- 30
5. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent comprising cellular material from a plant in the coating is selected from fruit and herbs.
- 35 6. A chewing gum according to any of claims 1- 5 wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating is the is selected from coconut, grape fruit, orange, lime, lemon,

AMENDED SHEET

CLAIM/21959PC1/FLV/F/26-11-00

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- mandarin, pineapple, strawberry, raspberry, mango, passion fruit, kiwi, apple, pear, peach, , apricot, cherry, grapes, banana, cranberry, blueberry, black current, red current, gooseberry, and lingon berries, thyme, basil, camille, valerian, fennel, parsley, camomile, tarragon, lavender, dill, cumin, bergamot, salvia, aloe vera balsam, spearmint,
- 5 peppermint, eucalyptus and mixtures thereof.

7. A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein the water content of the natural flavouring agent in the coating is less than 75% by weight, such as less than 60%, preferable less than 40%, more preferred less than 30%, such as less than 25%.
- 10
8. A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein the water content of the natural flavouring agent in the coating is less than 20% by weight, such as less than 15%, more preferred less than 10% such as between 1.5-7%, more preferred between 2-6%.
- 15 9. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is freeze-dried.
10. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is in the form of a powder, slices or pieces of combinations
- 20 thereof.
11. A chewing gum according to claim 10 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is in a form where the particle size is less than 3 mm, such as less than 2 mm, more preferred less than 1 mm, calculated as the longest dimension of the particle.
- 25
12. A chewing gum according to claim 11 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is in a form where the particle size is from about 3 μ m to 2 mm, such as from 4 μ m to 1 mm.
- 30 13. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is substantially intact seeds from a fruit.
14. A chewing gum according to claim 13 wherein said seeds are from a fruit selected from the group consisting of strawberry, blackberry and raspberry.
- 35

AMENDED SHEET

CLAIM/21958PC1/FLV/F/26-11-00

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15. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating also provides the chewing gum with a natural colour.

5 16. A chewing gum according to any of the proceeding claims wherein the natural flavouring agent is used in the coating of the chewing gum and in the chewing gum core.

17. A chewing gum according to claim 16 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating of the chewing gum and in the chewing gum formulation provides a natural colour
10 to the chewing gum core.

18. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating provides the chewing gum with a basic colour.

15 19. A chewing gum according to claim 18 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating provides the chewing gum with a basic colour as well as more intense colour spots.

20. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims comprising from 5% to 85%
20 by weight of a gum base material.

21. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims comprising one or more of the following: at least one softener; a bulk sweetener; a high intensity sweetener; an emulsifier; an elastomer plasticizer; an elastomer; a mono-diglyceride; a sucrose fatty acid
25 ester.

22. A method for preparing a chewing gum composition comprising providing a mixture of
a) an insoluble gum base; and
b) a water soluble portion;
30 c) forming chewing gum pieces
d) coating the chewing gum pieces with a coating comprising a flavouring agent wherein at least 10% by weight of the flavouring agent is a natural vegetable flavouring agent comprising cellular material from a plant.

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23. A method according to claim 22 wherein at least 10% by weight such as at least 20%, preferable at least 30%, more preferred at least 40% by weight, such as about 50% of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent comprising cellular material from a plant.

5

24. A method according to claim 22 wherein at least 60% by weight, such as at least 70%, preferable at least 80%, more preferred at least 90% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent comprising cellular material from a plant.

10

25. A method according to claim 22 wherein at least 95% by weight, preferable at least 98%, such as about 100% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent comprising cellular material from a plant.

15 26. A method according to any of claims 22 to 25 wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating is selected from fruits and herbs.

27. A method according to claim any of claims 22-26 wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating is the is selected from coconut, grape fruit, orange, lime,
20 lemon, mandarin, pineapple, strawberry, raspberry, mango, passion fruit, kiwi, apple, pear, peach, apricot, cherry, grapes, banana, cranberry, blueberry, black current, red current, gooseberry, and lingon berries, thyme, basil, camille, valerian, fennel, parsley, camomile, tarragon, lavender, dill, cumin, bargamot, salvia, aloe vera balsam, spearmint, peppermint, eucalyptus and mixtures thereof.

25

28. A method according to any of claims 22 to 27 wherein the water content of the natural flavouring agent in the coating is less than 75% by weight, such as less than 60%, preferable less than 40%, more preferred less than 30%, such as less than 25%.

30 29. A method according to any of claims 22 to 27 wherein the water content of the natural flavouring agent in the coating is less than 20% by weight, such as less than 15%, more preferred less than 10% such as between 1.5-7%, more preferred between 2-6%.

30. A method according to any of claims 22 to 29 wherein the natural flavouring agent in
35 the coating is freeze-dried.

AMENDED SHEET

CLAIM/21959PC1/FLV/F/26-11-00

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31. A method according to any of claims 22 to 30 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is in the form of a powder, slices or pieces or combinations thereof.

5 32. A method according to claim 31 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is in a form where the particle size is less than 3 mm, such as less than 2 mm, more preferred less than 1 mm, calculated as the longest dimension of the particle.

33. A method according to any of claims wherein the natural flavouring agent in the
10 coating is in a form where the particle size is from about 3 μ m to 2 mm, such as from 4 μ m to 1 mm.

34. A method according to any of claims 22 to 33 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating comprises substantially intact seeds from a fruit.

15 35. A method according to claim 34 wherein said seeds are from a fruit selected from the group consisting of strawberry, blackberry and raspberry.

36. A method according to any of claims 22 to 35 wherein the natural vegetable flavouring
20 agent in the coating also provides the chewing gum with a natural colour.

37. A method according to any of claims 22 to 35 wherein the natural flavouring agent is also used in the chewing gum core.

25 38. A method according to any of claims 22 to 35 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating provides a natural colour to the coating.

39. A method according to claim 38 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating provides the chewing gum coating with a basic colour as well as more intense colour
30 spots.

40. A method according to any of claims 22 to 39 wherein the gum base material constitutes from 5% to 85% by weight of the chewing gum.

AMENDED SHEET

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41. A method according to any of claims 22 to 40 comprising adding one or more of the following ingredients to the chewing gum formulation: at least one softener; a bulk sweetener; a high intensity sweetener; an emulsifier; an elastomer plasticizer; an elastomer; a mono-diglyceride; a sucrose fatty acid ester.

5

42. Use of a natural vegetable component comprising cellular material from a plant as a flavouring agent in the coating of a chewing gum as described in any of claims 1-21.

43. Use according to claim 42 wherein the cellular material from a plant comprises
10 substantially intact cellular components.

AMENDED SHEET

CLAIM/21959PC1/FLV/F/26-11-00

Last printed 26/11/00 12:07

Printed:29-11-2000

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23 NOV. 1999

PCT

REQUEST

The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

For receiving Office use only

International Application No.

International Filing Date

Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"

Applicant's or agent's file reference
(if desired) (12 characters maximum)

21959 PC 1

Box No. I TITLE OF INVENTION Use of natural vegetable components as flavouring agents in the coating of chewing gum

Box No. II APPLICANT

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

Dandy A/S
Dandyvej 19
P.O. Box 208
DK-7100 Vejle
Denmark

☐ This person is also inventor.

Telephone No.

Facsimile No.

Teleprinter No.

State (that is, country) of nationality:

DK

State (that is, country) of residence:

DK

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

☐ all designated States

☒ all designated States except the United States of America

☐ the United States of America only

☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

STAHL, Bronislaw-Jan
Magnoliavej 15
DK-7100 Vejle
Denmark

This person is:

☐ applicant only

☒ applicant and inventor

☐ inventor only (If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)

State (that is, country) of nationality:

DK

State (that is, country) of residence:

DK

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

☐ all designated States

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X	US 3 632 358 A (J.F. ECHEANDIA) 4 January 1972 * column 2, line 63 - column 4, line 37; examples * ---	1-13, 15, 18-34, 36, 38-44												
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Y	* page 12 - page 13; claims; example * --- -/--	16, 17, 37, 38												
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<table border="0"><tr><td>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</td><td>T : theory or principle underlying the invention</td></tr><tr><td>X : particularly relevant if taken alone</td><td>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</td></tr><tr><td>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</td><td>D : document cited in the application</td></tr><tr><td>A : technological background</td><td>L : document cited for other reasons</td></tr><tr><td>O : non-written disclosure</td><td>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</td></tr><tr><td>P : intermediate document</td><td></td></tr></table>			CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS	T : theory or principle underlying the invention	X : particularly relevant if taken alone	E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date	Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category	D : document cited in the application	A : technological background	L : document cited for other reasons	O : non-written disclosure	& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	P : intermediate document	
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(54) Title: USE OF NATURAL VEGETABLE COMPONENTS AS FLAVOURING AGENTS IN THE COATING OF CHEWING GUM

(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to the use of natural vegetable flavouring components as flavouring agents in chewing gum coating. The addition of a natural vegetable component to a chewing gum coating results in increased flavour sensation. The invention also relates to a method for the preparation of a chewing gum wherein the coating comprises a natural vegetable component as flavouring agent. The chewing gum comprises a) an insoluble gum base; b) a water soluble portion; c) a coating comprising a flavouring agent wherein at least 10% by weight of the flavouring agent is a natural vegetable flavouring agent.

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USE OF NATURAL VEGETABLE COMPONENTS AS FLAVOURING AGENTS IN THE COATING OF CHEWING GUM

The present invention relates to the use of natural vegetable flavouring components
5 as flavouring agents in chewing gum coating.

According to the present invention it has surprisingly been found that addition of a natural vegetable component to a chewing gum coating results in increased flavour sensation. The invention also relates to a method for the preparation of a chewing
10 gum wherein the coating comprises a natural vegetable component as flavouring agent.

The aroma agents and flavours generally used in chewing gum coating are for instance natural and synthetic flavourings in the form of essential oils, essences, and
15 extracts. The flavours may be in the form of liquids or powders. The powders are normally prepared on the basis on liquid essences or extracts.

Natural flavours are commonly subject to deterioration due to heat treatment, contact with air, light and moisture. In addition, natural flavours may due to the
20 preparation method lack the natural taste sensation because many taste notes of the original product are changed or disappears during the processes. Accordingly, the overall taste sensation is changed.

Patent application CA 2,027,177 discloses use of fruit juice concentrate as a
25 flavouring agent.

US 3,632,358 relates to the use of particles of freeze-dried food in the chewing gum formulations prepared from a chewing gum vehicle. The freeze-dried particles are added to the water-soluble portion of the formulation. The chewing gum is not
30 coated.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

According to the present invention, it has surprisingly been found that natural flavour sources such as dried fruits or other vegetable material in its natural form or dried
5 form are excellent flavours in chewing gum coatings. The natural dried fruits or other vegetable material are useful flavours and is used in the coating of the chewing gum. In a further embodiment, the natural dried fruits or other vegetable material may also be added to the chewing gum formulation in order to keep the good taste sensation initiated by use of the dried fruits or other vegetable material in the coating.

10

It is believed that the surprising effect of the natural vegetable flavouring component according to the present invention is not only due to a minimal treatment of the natural vegetable flavouring agent but is also related to the content of cellular material from the plant. The cellular material may serve as reservoir for the flavouring
15 components and may also help to preserve the sensible chemical structure of the natural selection of flavouring components. When both a great part of the flavouring components are retained as well as in the natural ratios, a very natural taste sensation is obtained. In addition, by being released during the chewing period of a chewing gum where saliva solubilize the different taste components in a way which
20 is very similar to the normal chewing of e.g. a fruit, the consumer experience a much more natural taste sensation than may be obtained by conventional flavours including flavours prepared on the basis of natural products such as from juices. Accordingly, in a preferred embodiment the natural vegetable-flavouring agent of the present invention comprises more or less intact cellular components.

25

Flavour powders known in the art are conventionally prepared by spray drying of aqueous solutions essences or extracts and drying with hot air. However, during the process the flavour loses the characteristics of the natural taste the liquid flavour might have. Initially, the liquid may already have lost a great part of the full taste
30 sensation of the original product as liquid flavour lack the full taste characteristics of the original product.

Furthermore, the taste sensation during the complete chewing process is of great importance for the customer. It has now surprisingly been found that use of a dried

natural flavouring agent according to the present invention may improve the taste sensation of a chewing gum wherein the dried fruits or other vegetable material is used as flavours in the coating. With relative small amounts of freeze-dried natural vegetable flavouring components the following improved characteristics has been
5 identified: less perfumed taste, less synthetic taste, less astringent sensation, increased intensity, increased impact, increased sourness and freshness.

In addition to the increase in taste sensation the use of the natural flavouring components also results in the chewing gum wherein synthetic colouring agents can
10 by avoided. In a preferred embodiment, the natural flavouring component is used in the dragée layer as well as in the chewing gum resulting in an excellent taste as well as colour of the chewing gum product.

Use of the dried natural vegetable components according to the present invention
15 may cause difficulties in a conventional coating process using a wet coating suspension. Accordingly, the present invention also relates to a coating process wherein the dried natural vegetable flavouring agent is applied to the coating in dry form.

20 Examples natural vegetable flavouring agents according to the present invention are preferable fruits and herbs and include coconut, grape fruit, orange, lime, lemon, mandarin, pineapple, strawberry, raspberry, tropical fruits such as mango, passion fruit, kiwi; apple, pear, peach, strawberry, apricot, raspberry, cherry, pineapple, grapes, banana, cranberry, blueberry, black current, red current, gooseberry, and
25 lingon berries. The herbs include thyme, basil, camille, valerian, fennel, parsley, camomile, tarragon, lavender, dill, cumin, bergamot, salvia, aloe vera and balsam. Also aromatic vegetables such as tomatoes may be used according to the present invention.

30 In a preferred embodiment of the invention, plants known as menthol, spearmint, peppermint, and eucalyptus are used as flavouring agents according to the invention.

The vegetable flavouring component agent may include all parts of the plant, however, the most aromatic parts are preferred such as e.g. the leaves of the eucalyptus, spearmint, peppermint and will be known by the skilled person.

- 5 As is well known in the art, chewing gum comprises an insoluble gum part and a water-soluble part. The Standard gum bases generally contain elastomers, resins, fats, oils, waxes, emulsifiers and inorganic fillers.

Thus, the invention relates to a coated chewing gum comprising a core of chewing
10 gum and a coating that comprises a coating material, and one or more dried natural vegetable components as flavours.

In one embodiment, the invention relates to a method for the preparation of a coated chewing gum according to the invention comprising the following steps:

- 15 1) preparation of a core of chewing gum in a manner known *per se*,
2) preparation of a coating suspension, also in a manner known *per se*,
3) repeated applications of the coating suspension onto the cores of chewing gum also in a manner known *per se*, preferable at a temperature in the interval 30-90°C, preferably 35-75°C,
20 4) Applying on the coating the dried vegetable flavouring agent in dried form in one or more increment(s) after the application of the coating suspension, and optionally repeating step 3) and 4)
5) optionally, application of one or more flavours in liquid form in one or more increment(s) between the applications of the coating suspension,
25 6) optionally, finally application of a surface layer.

Applying of the solid natural flavour agent preferable performed without drying of the coating suspension in order to enable adherence of a substantial amount of the dried flavour to the coating. The drying time for the coating suspension depends on the
30 specific coating formulation, however, the dried flavour is added to the coated chewing gum substantially without delay after the coating processes are finished. If desired, the coated chewing gum may be wetted in case the coating has been allowed to dry for too long time whereby the coated chewing gum is no longer sticky.

The coating process may be repeated as many times as needed in order to obtain the desired thickness of the coating. It is also within the present invention to use different flavours in the same coating layer or use one active substance in one layer, and a second active substance in another layer.

5

As the flavour is located in the outer part of the coating, the active substance(s) is/are exposed to the consumer within a short period of chewing. Accordingly, in a further embodiment, the invention relates to the use of one or more natural vegetable flavours in dried form in the coating of a coated chewing gum in order to obtain a

10 fast onset of the effect.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

15 The present invention relates to a chewing gum comprising

a) an insoluble gum base;

b) a water soluble portion;

c) a coating comprising a flavouring agent wherein at least 10 % by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent. Preferable, the

20 coating comprises a flavouring agent wherein at least 20% by weight such as at least 30 % by weight preferable as at least 40%, more preferred at least 50%, still more preferred at least 60% by weight of the flavouring agent is a natural vegetable flavouring agent.

25 In most cases at least at 70 % by weight such as at least 80%, preferable at least 90%, more preferred at least 95% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is natural vegetable flavouring agent.

30 In addition, the only flavouring agent used in the coating may be a natural vegetable flavouring agent.

The natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating may be selected from coconut, grape fruit, orange, lime, lemon, mandarin, pineapple, strawberry, raspberry, mango, passion fruit, kiwi, apple, pear, peach, strawberry, apricot, raspberry, cherry,

pineapple, grapes, banana, cranberry, blueberry, black current, red current, gooseberry, and lingon berries, thyme, basil, camille, valerian, fennel, parsley, camomile, tarragon, lavender, dill, cumin, bergamot, salvia, aloe vera balsam, spearmint, peppermint, eucalyptus and mixtures thereof. It is preferred that the
5 natural flavouring agent in the coating is dried in order to obtain sufficient taste.

Accordingly, the water content of the natural flavouring agent in the coating is less than 75% by weight, such as less than 60%, preferable less than 40%, more preferred less than 30%, such as less than 25%. Even drier flavours are preferred
10 such as a water content of the natural flavouring agent in the coating of less than 20% by weight, such as less than 15%, more preferred less than 10% such as between 1.5-7%, more preferred between 2-6%. This may be obtained by freeze-drying.

15 The dried natural flavouring agent in the coating may be in the form of a powder, slices or pieces of combinations thereof and the particle size may be less than 3 mm, such as less than 2 mm, more preferred less than 1mm, calculated as the longest dimension of the particle. Even smaller particles may be obtained such as coatings wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is in a form where the particle size
20 is from about 3 μ to 2 mm, such as from 4 μ to 1 mm.

Some fruits comprises very tasteful seeds, accordingly, the flavouring agent in the coating may comprise seeds from a fruit e.g. from strawberry, blackberry and raspberry, and which seeds are substantially intact.

25

By use of the natural flavour according to the invention a natural colour may also be obtained. Both as a basic colour but also spots of colour from larger particle size may obtained. 22. A method for preparing a chewing gum composition comprising providing a mixture of

- 30 a) an insoluble gum base; and
b) a water soluble portion;
c) forming chewing gum pieces

d) coating the chewing gum pieces with a coating comprising a flavouring agent wherein at least 10 % by weight of the flavouring agent is a natural vegetable flavouring agent.

- 5 The gum base may be any conventional and includes s wherein the chewing gum base contains about 5 weight-% to 50 weight-% elastomer which may be of natural or more preferred of synthetic origin, about 5 to about 55 weight-% elastomer plasticizer, about 0 to 50 weight-% filler, about 5 to about 35 weight-% softener, and optional minor amounts (about 1 % or less) of miscellaneous ingredient such as
10 antioxidants, colorants, etc.

According to the present text, the term softener is used for ingredients, which soften the gum or chewing gum formulation and encompass wax, fax, oil, emulsifiers, surfactants, solubilizers etc.

15

The gum base used in the chewing gum according to the invention is generally prepared in a conventional manner by heating and mixing the different ingredients such as elastomers, resins, inorganic fillers, waxes, fats, and emulsifiers etc.

- 20 The insoluble gum base generally comprises fats and oils, resins, elastomers, softeners, and inorganic fillers. The gum base may or may not include wax. The insoluble gum base can constitute approximately 5 to about 95 percent, by weight, of the chewing gum, more commonly, the gum base constitutes 10 to about 50 percent of the gum, and in a preferred embodiment, 20 to about 35 percent, by
25 weight, of the chewing gum.

Synthetic elastomers may include, but are not limited to, polyisobutylene with a GPC weight average molecular weight of about 10,000 to about 95,000, isobutylene-isoprene copolymer (butyl elastomer), styrene-butadiene copolymers having styrene-
30 butadiene ratios of about 1:3 to about 3:1, polyvinyl acetate having a GPC weight average molecular weight of about 2,000 to about 90,000, polyisoprene, polyethylene, vinyl acetate-vinyl laurate copolymer having vinyl laurate content of about 5 to about 50 percent by weight of the copolymer, and combinations thereof. Preferred ranges are, for polyisobutylene, 50,000 to 80,000 GPC weight average
35 molecular weight, for styrene-butadiene, 1:1 to 1:3 bound styrene-butadiene, for

polyvinyl acetate, 3,000 to 80,000 GPC weight average molecular weight with the higher molecular weight polyvinyl acetates typically used in bubble gum base, and for vinyl acetate-vinyl laurate, vinyl laurate content of 10-45 percent.

- 5 Natural elastomers may include natural rubber such as smoked or liquid latex and guayule as well as natural gums such as jelutong, lechi caspi, massaranduba balata, sorva, perillo, rosindinha, massaranduba chocolate, chicle, nispero, gutta hang kang, and combinations thereof. The preferred synthetic elastomer and natural elastomer concentrations vary depending on whether the chewing gum in which the base is
10 used is adhesive or conventional, bubble gum or regular gum, as discussed below. Preferred natural elastomers include jelutong, chicle, massaranduba balata and sorva.

Elastomers plasticizers may include, but are not limited to, natural rosin esters, often called estergums, such as glycerol esters of partially hydrogenated rosin, glycerol
15 esters polymerized rosin, glycerol esters of partially dimerized rosin, glycerol esters of rosin, pentaerythritol esters of partially hydrogenated rosin, methyl and partially hydrogenated methyl esters of rosin, pentaerythritol esters of rosin; synthetics such as terpene resins derived from alpha-pinene, beta-pinene, and/or d-limonene; and any suitable combinations of the foregoing. The preferred elastomer will also vary
20 depending on the specific application, and on the type of elastomer which is used. Fillers/texturizers may include magnesium and calcium carbonate, ground limestone, silicate types such as magnesium and aluminium silicate, clay, alumina, talc, titanium oxide, mono-, di- and tri-calcium phosphate, cellulose polymers, such as wood, and combinations thereof.

25

In an embodiment of the invention softeners/emulsifiers may include tallow, hydrogenated tallow, hydrogenated and partially hydrogenated vegetable oils, cocoa butter, glycerol monostearate, glycerol triacetate, lechithin, mono-, di- and triglycerides, acetylated monoglycerides, fatty acids (e.g. stearic, palmitic, oleic and
30 linoleic acids), and combinations thereof.

According to a further embodiment of the invention, sucrose fatty acid esters are used for increasing the flavour properties of the chewing gum formulations.

In addition to the natural flavour agent according to the invention, the chewing gum formulation may comprise conventional flavours. The aroma agents and flavours usable for the compositions according to the present invention are for instance natural and synthetic flavourings (including nature identical flavourings) in the form of
5 essential oils, essences, extracts, powders, including acids and other substances capable of affecting the taste profile. Examples of liquid and powdered flavourings include coconut, coffee, chocolate, vanilla, grape fruit, orange, lime, menthol, liquorice, caramel aroma, honey aroma, pineapple, strawberry, raspberry, tropical fruits, cherries, cinnamon, peppermint, wintergreen, spearmint, eucalyptus, and mint,
10 fruit essence such as from apple, pear, peach, strawberry, apricot, raspberry, cherry, pineapple, and plum essence. The essential oils include peppermint, spearmint, menthol, eucalyptus, clove oil, bay oil, anise, thyme, cedar leaf oil, nutmeg, and oils of the fruits mentioned above.

In addition to the natural vegetable flavouring agents according to the present
15 invention, various synthetic flavours may also be used if desired. The conventional aroma agents and/or flavours may be used in an amount of from 0.01 to about 30 weight-% of the final product depending on the intensity of the aroma and/or flavour used. Preferably, the content of aroma/flavour is in the range of from 0.2 to 3% of the total composition.

20

Colorants and whiteners may include FD&C-type dyes and lakes, fruit and vegetable extracts, titanium dioxide, and combinations thereof.

The base may or may not include wax. Waxes may include synthetic waxes such as
25 microcrystalline or paraffin waxes, or natural waxes such as carnauba, beeswax, candellila, or polyethylene wax.

In addition to a water insoluble gum base portion, a typical chewing gum composition includes a water soluble bulk portion. The water soluble portion can include bulk
30 sweeteners, high intensity sweeteners, flavouring agents, softeners, emulsifiers, colours, acidulants, fillers, antioxidants, and other components that provide desired attributes.

The softeners, which are also known as plasticizers and plasticizing agents, generally constitute between approximately 0.5 to about 15% by weight of the chewing gum. The softeners may, in addition to including sucrose polyesters, include glycerin, lecithin, and combinations thereof. Aqueous sweetener solutions such as those
5 containing sorbitol, hydrogenated starch hydrolysates, corn syrup and combinations thereof, may also be used as softeners and binding agents in chewing gum.

Bulk sweeteners include both sugar and sugarless components. Bulk sweeteners typically constitute 5 to about 95% by weight of the chewing gum, more typically
10 constitute 20 to about 80% by weight, and more commonly, 30 to 60% by weight of the gum.

Sugar sweeteners generally include saccharide-containing components commonly known in the chewing gum art, but not limited to, sucrose, dextrose, maltose,
15 dextrin, dried invert sugar, fructose, levulose, galactose, corn syrup solids, and the like, alone or in combination.

Sorbitol can be used as a sugarless sweetener. Additionally, sugarless sweeteners can include, but are not limited to, other sugar alcohols such as mannitol, xylitol,
20 hydrogenated starch hydrolysates, maltitol, and the like, alone or in combination. High intensity artificial sweeteners can also be used in combination with the above. Preferred sweeteners include, but are not limited to sucralose, aspartame, salts of acesulfame, alitame, saccharin and its salts, cyclamic acid and its salts, glycyrrhizin, dihydrochalcones, thaumatin, monellin, and the like, alone or in combination. In order
25 to provide longer lasting sweetness and flavour perception, it may be desirable to encapsulate or otherwise control the release of at least a portion of the artificial sweetener. Such techniques as wet granulation, wax granulation, spray drying, spray chilling, fluid bed coating, coacervation, and fiber extrusion may be used to achieve the desired release characteristics.

30

Usage level of the artificial sweetener will vary greatly and will depend on such factors as potency of the sweetener, rate of release, desired sweetness of the product, level and type of flavour used and cost considerations. Thus, the active level of artificial sweetener may vary from 0.02 to about 8%. When carriers used for

encapsulation are included, the usage level of the encapsulated sweetener will be proportionately higher.

Combinations of sugar and/or sugarless sweeteners may be used in chewing gum.

Additionally, the softener may also provide additional sweetness such as with

5 aqueous sugar or alditol solutions.

If a low calorie gum is desired, a low caloric bulking agent can be used. Examples of low caloric bulking agents include polydextrose; Raftilose, Raftilin;

Fructooligosaccharides (NutraFlora); Palatinose oligosaccharide; Guar Gum

10 Hydrolysate (Sun Fiber); or indigestible dextrin (Fibersol). However, other low calorie bulking agent can be used.

Any of the usual elastomers can be used in a quantity of typically 5-50 weight-%.

The elastomer may be of natural origin, for instance such as stated in Food and Drug

15 Administration, CFR, Title 21, Section 172.615, as "Masticatory Substances of Natural Vegetable Origin", or synthetic elastomers, such as styrene butadiene gum (SBR), butyl gum (isobutylene isoprene copolymer), or polyisobutylene (as stated in the above section of FDA under Masticatory Substances, Synthetic).

20 The inorganic fillers that form part of the chewing gum base includes calcium carbonate, talc, sodium sulphate, aluminium oxide, magnesium carbonate, kaolin, silicium oxide and calcium phosphates alone or in a mixture of more thereof. Waxes and fats are conventionally used for the adjustment of the consistency and softening of the chewing gum base when preparing chewing gum bases. In connection with

25 the present invention any conventionally used and suitable type of wax may be used, such as for instance rice bran wax, polyethylene wax, petroleum wax (refined paraffin and micro crystalline wax), paraffin, beeswax, carnauba wax, candelilla wax, cocoa butter, degreased cocoa powder and any suitable oil or fat, as for instance completely or partially hydrogenated vegetable oils or completely or partially

30 hydrogenated animal fats. In a preferred embodiment, the chewing gum is wax free. The wax of the general formulations may be replaced with hydrogenated oil or fat.

To soften the gum base further and to provide it with water binding properties, which gives the gum bases a pleasant smooth surface and reduces its adhesive

35 properties, one or more emulsifiers may usually be added. Mono and diglycerides of

edible fatty acids, lactic acid esters and acetic acid esters of mono and diglycerides of edible fatty acids, acetylated mono and diglycerides, sugar esters of edible fatty acids, Na-, K-, Mg- and Ca-stearates, lecithin, hydroxylated lecithin and the like may be mentioned as examples of legal and conventionally used emulsifiers added to the
5 chewing gum base. In case of the presence of an active ingredient, the formulation may comprise certain specific emulsifiers and/or solubilizers in order to disperse and release the active ingredient.

Emulsifiers are conventionally used in quantities of 0-18 weight-%, preferably 0-12
10 weight-% of the gum base. Furthermore, the chewing gum base may optionally contain the usual additives, such as antioxidants, for instance BHT, BHA, propylgallate and tocopherols as well as preservatives and colorants.

Resins should also be mentioned as a component forming part of a chewing gum
15 base, said resins being used to obtain the right chewing consistency and as plasticizer for the elastomers of the chewing gum base.

The chewing gum may also comprise the following surfactants and/or solubilizers, especially when active ingredients are present. As examples of types of surfactants
20 to be used as solubilizers in a chewing gum composition according to the invention reference is made to H.P. Fiedler, Lexikon der Hilfstoffe für Pharmacie, Kosmetik und Angrenzende Gebiete, page 63-64 (1981) and the lists of approved food emulsifiers of the individual countries.

25 Anionic, cationic, as well as amphoteric, and nonionic solubilizers can be used, but usually the solubilizer used is either anionic or nonionic as mainly such solubilizers are approved for use in food or medicines. In cases where the active agent is reactive it is usually an advantage to use a nonionic solubilizer as such are not very reactive and therefore do not affect the stability of the active agent unfavourably.

30 Suitable solubilizers include lecithines, polyoxyethylene stearate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters, fatty acid salts, mono and diacetyl tartaric acid esters of mono and diglycerides of edible fatty acids, citric acid esters of mono and diglycerides of edible fatty acids, saccharose esters of fatty acids, polyglycerol esters of
35 fatty acids, polyglycerol esters of interesterified castor oil acid (E476), sodium stearylattylate, sodium lauryl sulfate and sorbitan esters of fatty acids, which solubilizers are all known for use as food emulsifiers, and polyoxyethylated hydrogenated

castor oil (for instance such sold under the trade name CREMOPHOR), blockcopolymers of ethylene oxide and propylene oxide (for instance as sold under the trade name PLURONIC or the trade name POLOXAMER), polyoxyethylene fatty alcohol ethers, polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters, sorbitan esters of fatty acids and polyoxyethylene stearic acid ester, all known in the EEC for use as pharmaceutical-cosmetical emulsifiers.

Particularly suitable solubilizers are polyoxyethylene stearates, such as for instance polyoxyethylene(8)stearate and polyoxyethylene(40)stearate, the polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid esters sold under the trade name TWEEN, for instance TWEEN 20 (monolaurate), TWEEN 80 (monooleate), TWEEN 40 (monopalmitate), TWEEN 60 (monostearate) or TWEEN 65 (tristearate), mono and diacetyl tartaric acid esters of mono and diglycerides of edible fatty acids, citric acid esters of mono and diglycerides

of edible fatty acids, sodium stearyl sulfate, sodium laurylsulfate, polyoxyethylated hydrogenated castor oil, blockcopolymers of ethylene oxide and propyleneoxide and polyoxyethylene fatty alcohol ether. The solubilizer may either be a single compound or a combination of several compounds. The expression "solubilizer" is used in the present text to describe both possibilities, the solubilizer used must be suitable for use in food and/or medicine.

In the presence of an active ingredient the chewing gum may preferably also comprise a carrier known in the art.

In a further embodiment according to the invention the chewing gum also comprise a fatty acid sucrose ester such as palmitate/stearate sucrose ester. The palmitate/stearate sucrose ester may enhance the flavour release and/or increase release of an active ingredient. Preferably, the content of palmitate of the sucrose ester is above 50% of the weight of fatty acids of the sucrose ester.

Examples of active agents in the form of compounds for the care of treatment of the oral cavity and the teeth, are for instance bound hydrogen peroxide and compounds capable of releasing urea during chewing.

Examples of active agents in the form of antiseptics are for instance salts and compounds of guanidine and biguanidine (for instance chlorhexidine diacetate) and

- the following types of substances with limited water-solubility: quaternary ammonium compounds (for instance ceramime, chloroxylenol, crystal violet, chloramine), aldehydes (for instance paraformaldehyde), compounds of dequaline, polynoxyline, phenols (for instance thymol, para chlorophenol, cresol)
- 5 hexachlorophene, salicylic anilide compounds, triclosan, halogenes (iodine, iodophores, chloroamine, dichlorocyanuric acid salts), alcohols (3,4 dichlorobenzyl alcohol, benzyl alcohol, phenoxyethanol, phenylethanol), cf. furthermore Martindale, The Extra Pharmacopoeia, 28th edition, page 547-578; metal salts, complexes and compounds with limited water-solubility, such as aluminium salts, (for instance
- 10 aluminium potassium sulfate $AlK(SO_4)_2 \cdot 12H_2O$) and furthermore salts, complexes and compounds of boron, barium, strontium, iron, calcium, zinc, (zinc acetate, zinc chloride, zinc gluconate), copper (copper chloride, copper sulfate), lead, silver, magnesium, sodium, potassium, lithium, molybdenum, vanadium should be included; other compositions for the care of mouth and teeth: for instance; salts, complexes
- 15 and compounds containing fluorine (such as sodium fluoride, sodiummonofluorophosphate, aminofluorides, stannous fluoride), phosphates, carbonates and selenium.

Confer furthermore J. Dent.Res. Vol. 28 No. 2, page 160-171, 1949, wherein a

20 wide range of tested compounds are mentioned.

Examples of active agents in the form of agents adjusting the pH in the oral cavity include for instance: acceptable acids, such as adipinic acid, succinic acid, fumaric acid, or salts thereof or salts of citric acid, tartaric acid, malic acid, acetic acid, lactic

25 acid, phosphoric acid and glutaric acid and acceptable bases, such as carbonates, hydrogen carbonates, phosphates, sulfates or oxides of sodium, potassium, ammonium, magnesium or calcium, especially magnesium and calcium.

Examples of active agents in the form of anti-smoking agents include for instance:

30 nicotine, tobacco powder or silver salts, for instance silver acetate, silver carbonate and silver nitrate.

Other active ingredients include beta-lupeol, Letigen®, Sildenafil citrate and derivatives thereof.

35

In one embodiment where the preparation according to the invention comprises an active ingredient, up to 50 weight-%, preferably 0.1-10 weight-% active agent may

be in the form of a solid dispersion hereof in a carrier, up to 60 weight-%, preferably approximately 20 weight-% of the carrier used to obtain the solid dispersion, 0.1-30 weight-%, preferably 0.1-10 weight-% solubilizer, 15-80 weight-%, preferably approximately 35 weight-% chewing gum base and up to 85 weight-%, preferably
5 approximately 35 weight-% auxiliary substances and additives.

The invention further relates to a process for the preparation of a chewing gum composition, which process is characterised by preparing a chewing gum base on the basis of conventional chewing gum base constituents.

10

The formulation of the chewing gum base depends on the type of chewing gum desired as described above or the required type of structure. Suitable raw materials for the gum base comprise substances according to U.S. Chewing Gum Base Regulations - Code of Federal Regulations, Title 21, Section 172.615.

15

It is a particular advantage of the invention that the chewing gum composition can be prepared using conventional ingredients, conventional equipment and conventional methods of preparation.

20 The chewing gum product may be of any known type, such as bubble gum, bits, optionally provided with a dragee, and sticks or chewing gum of any other desired form. The chewing gum pieces may be coated with a type of wax, a film coating or a conventional so-called candy coat based on sugar-containing or sugar free substances.

25

A single piece of chewing gum usually weighs between 0.4 and 20.0 g. The following Table indicates the preferred intervals for the different product types:

Chewing gum bits	500-3,500 mg
30 Coated chewing gum	600-6,000 mg
Chewing gum sticks	1,000-5,000 mg

When the individual ingredients forming part of a chewing gum composition according to the invention are mentioned in singular, such mention also comprises a
35 combination of several such ingredients, apart from instances where one particular ingredient is mentioned.

LIST OF FIGURS

Fig. 1. shows the initial phase of test profile 1.

5 Fig. 2. shows the intermediate phase I of test profile 1.

Fig. 3. shows the intermediate phase II of test profile 1.

Fig. 4. shows the end phase of test profile 1.

10

Fig. 5. shows the initial phase of test profile 2.

Fig. 6. shows the intermediate phase I of test profile 2.

15 Fig. 7. shows the intermediate phase II of test profile 2.

Fig. 8. shows the end phase of test profile 2.

Fig. 9. shows the initial phase of test profile 3.

20

Fig. 10. shows the intermediate phase I of test profile 3.

Fig. 11. shows the intermediate phase II of test profile 3.

25 Fig. 12. shows the end phase of test profile 3.

Preparation of Chewing Gum

30 The preparation process comprises the following:

Mixing of conventional chewing gum components in kneading kettles (mixers) with strong horizontally placed Z-shaped arms, which processes the raw materials and produces a homogeneous gum mass.

35

The kneading kettles are heated to a temperature of 30-80°C, typically approx. 45°C. The mixing process starts with gum base quantities that have been weighed out, and the processing of these lasts for 1-20 minutes, typically approx. 10 minutes. Then one or more sweetener(s) in powder form or in liquid form is/are added. The dosage
5 of sweeteners and the following processing last from 1 to 20 minutes, typically approx. 7 minutes.

Then the flavours and the remaining components are added and kneaded for a further 1 to 10 minutes, typically approx. 5 minutes. The admixture of flavours and the
10 remaining components may also take place in the beginning of the kneading process, i.e. before the admixture of the sweeteners. It is also possible to add flavours in two or more portions during the kneading process.

When the kneading is completed, the kneading kettle is tipped, and the gum mass is
15 taken out into carts, onto trays or the like.

The next process is the forming of the chewing gum. Before the forming can take place, the chewing gum mass, however, must be cooled. When taken out, the chewing gum mass has a temperature of 50-70°C, and in order to form the chewing
20 gum, the temperature must be reduced to 30-45°C. The cooling of the chewing gum either takes place by storing the chewing gum mass in carts or on trays for quite a long time or by transporting a thin chewing gum carpet through a cooling tunnel.

The forming of the chewing gum may take place by extrusion through a specially
25 formed nozzle, or the chewing gum may be formed after extrusion by means of rollers, punching machines, tentering wheels, and the like.

The chewing gum may be formed into cores, sticks, balls, cubes, cylinders, and many other shapes.

30

In order to prevent the chewing gum from sticking to the rollers and other tools, the chewing gum is frequently powdered with a powder, which may consist of i.a. icing sugar, talc, corn flour, and the like.

The formed chewing gum can be cooled immediately to room temperature in a cooling tunnel and be packed (especially in case of bubble gum and soft bubble gum), or the cooling may take place on trays at the store for semimanufactured products at a controlled temperature and moisture.

5

The formed and cooled chewing gum is then treated by means coating and polishing processes before the packing.

Coating and Polishing of Cores of Chewing Gum

10

The coating of cores takes place in tilted, round or horizontally placed cylindrical coating kettles that rotate during the whole process. The coating kettles are made from copper, stainless steel or fiberglass-reinforced polyester, and are often equipped with a piping system that supplies and exhausts air and doses the coating

15 suspension.

The coating process may take place as follows:

Cores of chewing put into movement in rotating coating kettles are added to the coating suspension in small portions that disperse evenly over the surfaces of the
20 cores after a short or long smoothing out time. (The smoothing out time is the period of time during which the suspension disperses over the cores, approx. 10-90 seconds, preferably approx. 30-60 seconds). Afterwards the cores are dried by means of air. The operation is repeated up to 90 times, preferably approx. 30-40 times, until the cores are completely covered and have the preferred measure and the
25 preferred weight.

In order to ease the coating process of chewing gum, a suspension is used which is heated up to 90°C, preferable up to about 75°C, and air which is heated up to at least 35°C such as about 40°C.

30

Between the dosages of the coating suspension, one or more active substance(s) in solid form is/are added in one or more increment(s) in order to provide the chewing gum with a fast effect, e.g. flavour release during the chewing. It is an important aspect of the invention that the drying period is extended to after applying the active

substances. When the active substances are added just after the coating process is completed, the coating suspension is still soft and the active substances may be more or less embedded in the coating in the solid form. The skilled person will be able to estimate or to establish by a simple test when the active substance should be added for obtaining a sufficient adherence of the active ingredient to the coating.

As appears from the Examples, the drying period is 0 seconds, however, drying periods up to 50 seconds such as up to 25 seconds are within the present invention and even longer periods may be acceptable depending on the drying properties of the coating suspension, the particle size of the active substance as well as whether it is desired that the active substance should be fully embedded in the coating or should form a superficial layer on the coating.

Furthermore, between the dosages of the coating suspension and the addition of one or more active substance(s) in solid form, one or more active substance(s) in liquid form may be added.

In order to achieve a neat and smooth surface of the chewing gum tablets with the completed coating, these may subsequently be subjected to a polishing. The polishing also takes place in rotating coating kettles in which a polishing suspension or a polishing powder is added to the coated cores in one or more portion(s). The polishing suspension often consists of wax, emulsifier, shellac, gum arabic, water, etc. The polishing powder often consists of wax only, or of wax mixed with emulsifier, gum arabic or talc, etc.

The present invention is further illustrated below by means of some examples.

Examples

As a starting point, partly sugar-containing, partly sugar-free cores of chewing gum are used which are rolled out into sheets by means of stamping rollers, i.e. coherent sheets of cores of chewing gum which have a weight of approx. 0.9g/piece.

A coating kettle DRIA 1200, supplied by Driam Metallprodukt GmbH, Germany, is used for the coating of the above-mentioned cores. DRIA 1200 is a horizontally placed and cylindrical kettle intended for the coating of 50kg of chewing gum cores. The equipment has computer controlling of the amount of dosages of liquid and solid substances as well as controlling of the smoothing out times, the drying times, air quantities, the temperature of the drying air, and the airflow direction. For dosage of an active substance in a solid form, a pneumatic conveyor having a dispersing arm which ensures an even dispersion of the powder over all the tablets. The coating kettle can be set at various velocities from 1 to 15 rpm.

10

During the coating process, 50kg of chewing gum cores are filled into the coating kettle that can be set to a rotation of 8 rpm. During this rotation, the cores of chewing gum are separated from each other. Drying air is applied to the equipment, and surplus talc, which has been added during the rolling out of the cores of chewing gum, is removed. This separation and blowing through of air last for approx. 5 minutes.

Then the rotation speed of the coating kettle is increased to 11 rpm, and the first dosage of the coating suspension may take place.

20

It is also possible to use small (2kg) or large (100kg) tilted, round coating kettles and sprinkle active substance in solid form manually in 1-10 increment(s) between the dosages of the coating suspension. Dosage of active substance in more increments ensures an even dispersion of the powder over all the cores of chewing gum.

25

For the coating of sugar-containing cores of chewing gum, a saccharose suspension was used in the following examples, and a sorbitol suspension was used for the coating of sugar-free cores.

30 In the following embodiments, the coating suspension had the following composition:

1. Saccharose suspension

	Sugar juice (70%)	94.45 %
	Water	4.68 %
5	Gelatine (Bloom value 120-160)	0.87 %

	Total	100.00 %

2. Sorbitol suspension

10	Sorbitol liquid/neosorb 70/02	97.86 %
	Water	1.59 %
	Titanium dioxide	0.55 %

15	Total	100.00 %

Example 1

Coating in DRIA 1200 equipment of 50kg of sugar-containing chewing gum cores
20 with peppermint taste.

Saccharose suspension	Amount of dosage G	Smoothing out time sec.	Drying time sec.	Drum rpm
Dosage No.		sec.		
1-2	500	45	300	11
3-12	900	45	400	11
13	600 + 222 *	60	400	11
14-15	700	0	380	11
16-21	1000	0	380	11
22-34	1000	30	410	11
35-38	600	260	280	11
39	500	1500	290	11
40	wax powder 50g	300	300	8

* A 600g saccharose suspension + 222g peppermint oil.

Exempl 2

5573 - 23 (Standard)

Coating in DRIA 1200 equipment of 50kg of sugar-free chewing gum cores with strawberry taste.

5

Sorbitol suspension Dosage No.	Amount of dosage G	Smoothing out time sec.	Drying time sec.	Drum rpm
1-2	400	0	250	11
3-5	700	15	300	11
6	700 + 275 *	60	300	11
7-16	700	45	300	11
17-24	1000	45	350	11
25-26	700	240	240	11
27	wax powder 50g	360	360	8

* A 700g sorbitol suspension + 275g strawberry flavour.

Exempl 3

5553 - 21

Coating in DRIA 1200 equipment of 50kg sugar-free chewing gum cores with strawberry taste.

5

Sorbitol suspension Dosage No.	Amount of dosage G	Smoothing out time sec.	Drying time sec.	Drum rpm
1-2	400	0	250	11
3-5	700	15	300	11
6	350	10	0	11
7	250* powder	60	0	11
8-9	700	10	300	11
10	350	10	0	11
11	250* powder	60	0	11
12-13	700	10	300	11
14-18	700	45	300	11
19-26	1000	45	350	11
27-28	700	240	240	11
29	wax powder 50g	360	360	8

*The freeze-dried strawberry powder.

Example 4

5553 - 46 (Standard)

Coating in tilted kettles of 2kg sugar-free chewing gum cores with a forest fruit taste.

5

Sorbitol suspension Dosage No.	Amount of dosage G	Smoothing out time sec.	Drying time sec.	Number of revolutions rpm
1	20	120	120	50
2	20	90	120	50
3	20	60	60	50
4-9	30	30	90	50
10-11	30	30	120	50
12	20*	60	120	50
13	5 raspberry flavour	10	0	50
14	20	40	0	50
15-16	20	5	120	50
17-22	30	60	120	50
23-26	40	30	120	50
27-33	30	60	120	50
34-35	20	120	240	50
36	Wax powder 2g	300	300	50

* A sorbitol suspension with 7.5% aspartame..

Example 5

5553 - 42

Coating in tilted round kettles of 2kg sugar-free chewing gum cores with forest fruit taste.

Sorbitol suspension Dosage No.	Amount of dosage G	Smoothing out time sec.	Drying time sec.	Number of revolutions rpm
1	20	120	120	50
2	20	90	120	50
3	20	60	60	50
4-9	30	30	90	50
10-11	30	30	120	50
12	20*	60	120	50
13	20	10	0	50
14	20** powder	40	0	50
15-16	20	5	120	50
17-19	30	60	120	50
20-28	40	30	120	50
29-33	30	60	120	50
34-35	20	120	240	50
36	Wax powder 2g	300	300	50

* A sorbitol suspension with 7.5% aspartame.

** A freeze-dried raspberry powder.

Example 6

5553 – 45 standard

Coating in tilted kettles of 2kg sugar-free chewing gum cores with orange, lemon, and pink grape flavour.

Sorbitol suspension Dosage No.	Amount of dosage G	Smoothing out time sec.	Drying time sec.	Number of revolutions rpm
1	20	120	120	50
2	20	90	120	50
3	20	60	60	50
4-9	30	30	90	50
10-11	30	30	120	50
12	20*	60	120	50
13	6,5**flavour	10	0	50
14	20	40	0	50
15-16	20	5	120	50
17-18	30	60	120	50
19	30	60	120	50
20	30	60	120	50
21-22	30	60	120	50
23-24	40	30	120	50
25-28	40	30	120	50
29-35	30	60	120	50
36-37	20	120	240	50
38	wax powder 2g	300	300	50

* A sorbitol suspension with 7.5% aspartame.

** 5 g orange flavour, 1 g lemon flavour and 0,5 g pink grape flavour.

Exempl 7

5553 - 38

Coating in tilted kettles of 2kg sugar-free chewing gum cores with a mixture of orange and pink grape flavour, and freeze-dried orange and lemon powder.

5

Sorbitol suspension Dosage No.	Amount of dosage G	Smoothing out time sec.	Drying time sec.	Number of revolutions rpm
1	20	120	120	50
2	20	90	120	50
3	20	60	60	50
4-9	30	30	90	50
10-11	30	30	120	50
12	20*	60	120	50
13	3,5**flavour	10	0	50
14	20	40	0	50
15-16	20	5	120	50
17-18	30	60	120	50
19	20	10	0	50
20	15***powder	40	0	50
21-22	20	5	120	50
23-24	30	60	120	50
25-28	40	30	120	50
29-35	30	60	120	50
36-37	20	120	240	50
38	wax powder 2g	300	300	50

* A sorbitol suspension with 7.5% aspartame.

** 2 g orange flavour, 1 g lemon flavour, and 0,5 g pink grape flavour.

*** A freeze-dried orange powder.

Example 8

Coating in tilted kettles of 2kg sugar-free chewing gum cores with a mixture of peppermintoil, menthol, and freeze-dried powder of peppermint leaves and stems (*Mentha piperita*).

Sorbitol suspension Dosage No.	Amount of dosage G	Smoothing out time sec.	Drying time sec.	Number of revolutions rpm
1	20	120	120	50
2	20	90	120	50
3	20	60	60	50
4-9	30	30	90	50
10-11	30	30	120	50
12	20*	60	120	50
13	7**mintoil	10	0	50
14	20	40	0	50
15-16	20	5	120	50
17-18	30	60	120	50
19	20	10	0	50
20	10***powder	40	0	50
21-22	20	5	120	50
23-24	30	60	120	50
25-28	40	30	120	50
29-35	30	60	120	50
36-37	20	120	240	50
38	wax powder 2g	300	300	50

* A sorbitol suspension with 2.5% aspartame.

** 6 g peppermintoil and 1 g menthol.

*** A powder of freeze-dried leaves and stems of peppermint.

Example 9

Coating in tilted kettles of 2kg sugar-free chewing gum cores with spearmint oil and a powder of freeze-dried leaves and stems of spearmint (*Mentha spicata*).

Sorbitol suspension Dosage No.	Amount of dosage g	Smoothing out time sec.	Drying time sec.	Number of revolutions rpm
1	20	120	120	50
2	20	90	120	50
3	20	60	60	50
4-9	30	30	90	50
10-11	30	30	120	50
12	20*	60	120	50
13	5,5**sp.oil	10	0	50
14	20	40	0	50
15-16	20	5	120	50
17-18	30	60	120	50
19	20	10	0	50
20	10***powder	40	0	50
21-22	20	5	120	50
23-24	30	60	120	50
25-28	40	30	120	50
29-35	30	60	120	50
36-37	20	120	240	50
38	Wax powder 2g	300	300	50

* A sorbitol suspension with 2.5% aspartame.

** 5,5 g spearmint oil.

*** 10 g freeze-dried powder of leaves and stems of spearmint.

Example 10

Coating in tilted kettles of 2kg sugar-free chewing gum cores with a mixture of liquid eucalyptus, menthol, anethol, and a powder of freeze-dried leaves of eucalyptus.

Sorbitol suspension Dosage No.	Amount of dosage g	Smoothing out time sec.	Drying time sec.	Number of revolutions rpm
1	20	120	120	50
2	20	90	120	50
3	20	60	60	50
4-9	30	30	90	50
10-11	30	30	120	50
12	20*	60	120	50
13	7** liquid flavour	10	0	50
14	20	40	0	50
15	20	5	120	50
16-17	30	60	120	50
18	20	10	0	50
19	8*** powder	40	0	50
20-21	20	5	120	50
22	20	10	120	50
23	20	10	120	50
24-25	20	5	120	50
26-27	30	60	120	50
28-30	40	30	120	50
31-37	30	60	120	50
38-39	20	120	240	50
40	Wax powder 2g	300	300	50

* A sorbitol suspension with 3.5% aspartame and 7.5% acesulfame K.

** 3 g menthol, 2,5 g eucalyptus oil, and 1,5 g anethol.

*** A powder of freeze-dried leaves of eucalyptus.

Example 11

Coating in tilted kettles of 2kg sugar-free chewing gum cores with peppermint oil, and menthol, and powder of air-dried leaves of peppermint.

Sorbitol suspension Dosage No.	Amount of dosage g	Smoothing out time sec.	Drying time sec.	Number of revolutions rpm
1	20	120	120	50
2	20	90	120	50
3	20	60	60	50
4-9	30	30	90	50
10-11	30	30	120	50
12	20*	60	120	50
13	7**mintoil	10	0	50
14	20	40	0	50
15-16	20	5	120	50
17-18	30	60	120	50
19	20	10	0	50
20	15***powder	40	0	50
21-22	20	5	120	50
23-24	30	60	120	50
25-28	40	30	120	50
29-35	30	60	120	50
36-37	20	120	240	50
38	Wax powder 2g	300	300	50

- * A sorbitol suspension with 2,5% aspartame.
- ** 6 g peppermint oil and 1 g menthol.
- *** A powder of air-dried leaves of peppermint.

Example 12

Coating in tilted kettles of 2kg sugar-free chewing gum cores with a mixture of liquid spearmint oil, peppermint oil, and menthol, and a mixture of powders freeze-dried leaves of peppermint and spearmint.

5

Sorbitol suspension Dosage No.	Amount of dosage g	Smoothing out time sec.	Drying time sec.	Number of revolutions rpm
1	20	120	120	50
2	20	90	120	50
3	20	60	60	50
4-9	30	30	90	50
10-11	30	30	120	50
12	20*	60	120	50
13	20	10	0	50
14	13**powder	40	0	50
15-16	20	5	120	50
17-18	30	60	120	50
19	7,4***mintoil	10	0	50
20	20	40	0	50
21-22	20	5	120	50
23-24	30	60	120	50
25-28	40	30	120	50
29-35	30	60	120	50
36-37	20	120	240	50
38	wax powder 2g	300	300	50

- *A sorbitol suspension with 2,5% aspartame.
- **8 g freeze-dried spearmint, and 5 g freeze-dried peppermint.
- ***3,2 g spearmint oil, 3,7g peppermint oil, and 0,5 g menthol

Further examples of chewing gum bases

Preparation of a chewing gum base suitable for an ordinary chewing gum:

	Synthetic elastomer	15%
5	PVA	22%
	Elastomer plasticizer	26%
	Sucrose ester	3%
	Filler	14%
	Softeners	20%

10

Preparation of a chewing gum base suitable for a chewing gum comprising an active ingredient:

	Elastomers	4 weight-%
15	Terpene resin	28 weight-%
	Low molecular weight PVA	29 weight-%
	Emulsifier	6 weight-%
	Sucrose ester	2 weight-%
	Waxes	31 weight-%

20

The elastomer is ground in a conventional mixer for the preparation of chewing gum and gum base while being heated to 110-130°C and terpene resin and low molecular weight PVA are added slowly in small portions. Finally waxes and emulsifier are added. To ensure a homogenous base it is important that all the ingredients are

25 added in small portions and that the subsequent portions are not added until the preceding portion is ground.

Further examples of the preparation of a chewing gum

30 Examples of a chewing gum prepared according to the present invention:

Basic Formulation 1 comprising an active ingredient.

	Gum base	35 weight-%
35	Sorbitol powder	10 weight-%
	Hydrogenated glucose syrup	10 weight-%
	Active agent if desired	0.01-30 weight-%

Solubilizer	0-20 weight-%
Optional flavour	1.9 weight-%
Optional additional sorbitol powder q.s.	100 weight-%

- 5 The chewing gum pieces are prepared in the manner conventional for the preparation of chewing gum and using a conventional apparatus for the preparation of chewing gum.

The chewing gum base is melted or ground in a conventional chewing gum mixer.

- 10 When the chewing gum base is homogenous, the other ingredients are admixed one by one in the order mentioned. A possible active agent may be admixed separately or in the form of a pre-mixture or in a solution. Depending on the state of the ingredients and their melting point, such pre-mixture may be a simple mixture of two or more
- 15 powders, a mixture of one or more powders in one or more liquids or a mixture of more liquids at ordinary, increased or lower temperature. To ensure a good dispersion of the ingredients it may, especially when adding very small quantities of one or more of the components of the pre-mixture, be an advantage to add these as a liquid mixture or a solution where this is possible.

20

Further examples of chewing gum comprising dried fruit powder

Example 13

- 25 Sugar-containing chewing gum (standard without fruit powder)

	%
Sugar	62.7
Gum base	25
Glucose syrup	9
30 Citric acid	1
Sorbitol liquid 70%	1
Black current flavour	0.9
Lecithin	0.3
Triacetin	0.1

Example 14

Sugar-containing chewing gum (with fruit powder and flavour)

	%
5 Sugar	58.5
Gum base	25
Glucose syrup	10
Black current powder *	3
Citric acid	0.9
10 Sorbitol liquid 70%	1.5
Black current flavour	0.4
Triacetin	0.4
Lecithin	0.3
15 * freeze-dried black current	

Example 15

Sugar-containing chewing gum (with fruit powder only)

	%
20 Sugar	55.1
Gum base	25
Glucose syrup	11
Black current powder *	5
25 Sorbitol liquid 70%	2
Citric acid	0.8
Tracetin	0.8
Lecithin	0.3
* freeze-dried black current	

Example 16

Sugar-containing bubble gum (with fruit powder and flavour)

	%
5 Sugar	39.2
Bubble Gum Base	21
Dextrose	19
Glucose syrup	15
Strawberry powder *	3
10 Sorbitol liquid 70% ^f	1
Citric acid	0.8
Strawberry flavour	0.4
Triacetin	0.4
Lecithin	0.2
15 * freeze-dried strawberry	

Example 17

20 Sugar-containing Bubble Gum (with fruit powder)

	%
Sugar	35.7
Bubble Gum Base	21
Dextrose	19
25 Glucose syrup	16
Strawberry powder *	5
Sorbitol liquid 70%	1.5
Citric acid	0.8
Triacetin	0.8
30 Lecithin	0.2

* 50% freeze-dried and 50% tumble dried? strawberry

Example 18

Sugar free chewing gum (standard with fruit flavour)

	%
5 Sorbitol powder	45.6
Gum base	38
Xylitol	7
Maltitol (syrup)	5
Raspberry flavour	2
10 Citric acid	1
Malic acid	0.6
Aspartame	0.5
Lecithin	0.3

15 Example 19

Sugar free chewing gum (with fruit powder and flavour)

	%
20 Sorbitol powder	41.7
Gum base	38
Xylitol	7
Maltitol (syrup)	6
Raspberry powder *	3
25 Raspberry flavour	1
Citric acid	1
Triacetin	0.9
Malic acid	0.6
Aspartame	0.5
30 Lecithin	0.3

* freeze-dried raspberry

Example 20

Sugar free chewing gum (with fruit powder only)

	%
5 Sorbitol powder	37.8
Gum base	38
Xylitol	7
Maltitol (syrup)	7
Raspberry powder *	6
10 Triacetin	1.8
Citric acid	1
Malic acid	0.6
Aspartame	0.5
Lecithin	0.3
15 * freeze-dried raspberry	

Example 21

20 Sugar free Bubble Gum (with fruit powder and flavour)

	%
Sorbitol	54.3
Bubble Gum Base	26
25 Sorbitol liquid 70%	10
Mannitol	4
Orange powder *	2
Lemon powder **	1
Lecithin	1
30 Glycerol	0.8
Citric acid	0.5
Malic acid	0.5
Orange Flavour	0.5
Lemon Flavour	0.3

Saccharin	0.1
* spray dried orange juice	
** freeze-dried lemon	

5

Example 22

Sugar free Bubble Gum (with fruit powder)

	%
10 Sorbitol	51.1
Bubble Gum Base	26
Sorbitol liquid 70%	10
Mannitol	4
Orange powder *	4
15 Lemon powder **	2
Lecithin	1
Glycerol	0.8
Citric acid	0.5
Malic acid	0.5
20 Saccharin	0.1

* spray dried orange juice

** freeze-dried lemon

25 Examples of coating of chewing gum by use of fruit preparations

Coated chewing gum is prepared by coating a chewing gum core? with a number of coating layers. The coating most frequently takes place in rotating coating kettles in which chewing gum cores are put in motion and coating suspension? is added in

30 small doses that are dispersed evenly on the surfaces of the cores. Subsequently, the coated cores are dried by means of air. These coating operations can be made up to 90 times until a desired coating thickness is obtained.

The coating suspension is often an aqueous solution of a sugar or the like applied at a high temperature in order to facilitate the coating process. To give a quick flavour release one or more flavouring agents according to the present invention may be applied to the chewing gum between the application of the coating suspension.

5

Example A

Sugar-containing coating

	%
10 Syrup (70%)	91
Black current *	3
Water	4.7
Gelatine	0.8
Black current flavour **	0.5

15 * Black current freeze-dried is blended with sugar suspension and is added in few or more applications

** Black current flavour is added in between the applications of coating suspension

20 **Example B**

Sugar-containing coating (with fruit concentrate)

	%
Syrup (70%)	88.5
25 Black current concentrate Brix 65.3 *	3
Black current freeze-dried **	3
Water	4.7
Gelatine	0.8

30 * Black current concentrate is blended with sugar suspension and is added in few or more applications

** The freeze-dried black current powder is also blended with the sugar suspension.

Exempl C

Sugar free sorbitol coating (with fruit powder and flavour)

	%
5 Sorbitol liquid/neosorb 70/02	97
Water	1.5
Strawberry powder *	1
Strawberry flavour **	0.5

* The cores are sprinkled with strawberry powder in between the applications of sorbitol suspension

** Strawberry flavour is dosed in between the applications of sorbitol suspension

15 Example D

Sugar free xylitol coating (with fruit powder)

	%
Xylitol	64.9
20 Water	31.5
Gelatine	1.6
Strawberry powder *	2

* in between the applications of xylitol suspension the cores are sprinkled with strawberry powder (freeze-dried)

25

The following test profiles demonstrates the surprising effect with respect to taste which is obtained by use of the natural flavouring agent according to the invention.

Test profile 1

30

Products:

1. 5573-23 standard

Comprising 2 % strawberry flavour (Wild Strawberry commercially available from the Silesia) by weight of chewing gum formulation. Dragee/coatning 1.08 % strawberry flavour.

5 2. 5553-21 test product

Natural vegetable flavouring agent: 1.5 % Strawberry (freeze-dried powder) , 1.5 % Raspberry (freeze-dried powder) by weight of chewing gum formulation; dragee 0.5% strawberry freeze-dried powder)

10 (water content of freeze-dried powder 2-6%)

Assessors:

8 persons

15 Time consumption:

1 hour an assessor + time of the head of panel = 18 hours.

Procedure:

This sensory analysis is tested in DANDY's Sensory Laboratory, which consists of 10
20 individual tasting booths according to ISO 8589. The products are served at room temperature in 40 ml tasteless plastic cups coded with a randomised three-figure number.

The products are tested at the following intervals:

25 Initial phase : 0-1 min.

Intermediate phase 1 : 1-2 min.

Intermediate phase 2 : 3-4 min.

End phase : 5-6 min.

30 There is a three-minute interval between every product being tasted. Every test is repeated. The FIZZ (French Bio System) was used to collect and calculate data.

	Initial Phase	
	Significance clear	Significance diverse
Initial softness	**	**
Flavour impact	NS	NS
Flavour intensity	NS	NS
Juicy	NS	NS
Sourness	NS	NS
Sweetness	NS	NS
Strawberry center	***	(7.2) *
Perfumed	***	(24.0) **
Synthetic	***	(36.1) ***
Strawberry	***	(38.7) ***
Forest fruit	***	***
Astringent	*	*
Creaky	NS	NS
Volume	NS	NS

	Intermediate Phase I	
	Significance clear	Significance diverse
Softness	*	*
Flavour intensity	NS	NS
Juicy	*	(2,2) NS
Sourness	NS	NS
Sweetness	NS	NS
Strawberry center	***	***
Perfumed	***	(26.4) **
Synthetic	***	***
Strawberry	***	(27.3) **
Forest fruit	***	(23.1) **
Astringent	***	***
Creaky	**	(4.3) NS
Volume	NS	NS

	Intermediate Phase II	
	Significance clear	Significance diverse
Softness	**	(3.0)
Flavour intensity	NS	NS
Juicy	**	(3,2) NS
Sourness	NS	NS
Sweetness	NS	NS
Strawberry center	***	(22.2) **
Perfumed	***	(19.9) **
Synthetic	***	(20.7) **
Strawberry	***	(19.7) **
Forest fruit	***	***
Astringent	**	**
Creaky	***	(4.2) NS
Volume	NS	NS

Conclusion:

The difference between the two products is mainly found in the attributes:
strawberry center, perfumed, synthetic, and strawberry, forest fruit and astringent.

5

The sample 5553-21 is found as being significantly less perfumed, synthetic and astringent than the standard 5573-23P.

The standard 5573-23P has significantly less strawberry centers, less strawberry
10 flavour but more forest fruit flavour than the sample 5553-21.

In the end phase the sample 5553-21 is being judged as significantly higher in
flavour intensity than the sample.

15 In the initial phase, the standard is significantly softer than 5553-21. This is also the
case in the initial phase I, but not in the rest of the profile, where the two products
are alike concerning the texture.

Test profile 2

20

Products:

1. 5553-46 standard

Comprising 0.6% raspberry flavour, 0.6% orange flavour, 0.9% strawberry on the
chewing gum formulation, 0.5% raspberry flavour in the dragee/coating.

25

2. 5553-42 test product

Comprising 1% raspberry, 1% orange, 1% strawberry freeze-dried powders.

2% raspberry powder freeze-dried in the dragee/coating.

30 **Assessors:**

10 persons

Time consumption:

1 hour an assessor + time of the head of panel = 18 hours.

Procedure:

As test profile 1

	Initial Phase	
	Significance clear	Significance diverse
Initial softness	*	*
Flavour impact	***	(3.1) NS
Flavour intensity	NS	NS
Juicy	NS	NS
Sourness	**	**
Sweetness	NS	NS
Synthetic	***	(35.9) ***
Red fruit	***	(8.5) *
Orange fruit	***	(4.2) NS
Softness	***	***
Astringent	*	*
Creaky	NS	NS
Volume	NS	NS

	Intermediate Phase I	
	Significance clear	Significance diverse
Softness	***	***
Flavour intensity	**	**
Juicy	***	***
Sourness	NS	NS
Sweetness	NS	NS
Synthetic	***	(25.4) ***
Red fruit	***	(7.8) *
Orange fruit	***	(3.8) NS
Softness	**	**
Astringent	**	**
Creaky	***	(3.3) NS
Volume	**	**

	Intermediate Phase II	
	Significance clear	Significance diverse
Softness	**	(2.8) NS
Flavour intensity	*	*
Juicy	*	*
Sourness	NS	NS
Sweetness	NS	NS
Synthetic	***	***
Red fruit	***	***
Orange fruit	**	(3.2) NS
Softness	**	(4.5) NS
Astringent	**	**
Creaky	***	(4.7) NS
Volume	**	**

	End Phase	
	Significance clear	Significance diverse
Softness	NS	NS
Flavour intensity	NS	NS
Juicy	*	(2.5) NS
Sourness	NS	NS
Sweetness	NS	NS
Synthetic	***	(20.6) **
Red fruit	***	***
Orange fruit	**	(2.3) NS
Softness	***	(3.4) NS
Astringent	NS	NS
Creaky	**	(2.0) NS
Volume	***	(6.4) *

Conclusion:

In the beginning of the profile the standard is significantly softer than the trial.

- 5 All through the profile, the standard is judged as being significantly more synthetic than the trial, and significantly less red fruit than the trial 5553-42.

The standard is also more astringent in three of the four phases than the trial, and in the three last phases the trial is significantly bigger in volume than the standard.

10

In the two intermediate phases the trial 5553-42 is significantly more juicy and has a higher flavour intensity than the standard.

Test profile 3

15

Products:

1. 5553-45 standard

Comprising 0.7% lemon, 1.2% orange and 0.10% pink grape flavours in the chewing gum formulation and in the coating/drage 0.1 % lemon, 0.2% orange, 0.05% pink
20 grape flavours.

2. 5553-38 test product

Comprising 0.7% orange flavour and 0.1% pink grape, 2% % freeze-dried orange
25 powder, 1.5% % freeze-dried lemon powder in the chewing gum formulation and 0.7% freeze-dried orange powder in the coating.

Assessors:

10 persons

30

Time consumption:

1 hour an assessor + time of the head of panel = 18 hours

Procedure:

As test profile 1

	Initial Phase	
	Significance clear	Significance diverse
Initial softness	***	***
Flavour impact	***	***
Flavour intensity	**	(3.3) NS
Juicy	NS	NS
Sourness	NS	NS
Sweetness	NS	NS
Synthetic	**	**
Red fruit	NS	NS
Orange fruit	***	(72.8) ***
Softness	***	(50.3) ***
Astringent	NS	NS
Creaky	NS	NS
Volume	***	***

	Intermediate Phase !	
	Significance clear	Significance diverse
Softness	***	***
Flavour intensity	NS	NS
Juicy	NS	NS
Sourness	***	(4.6)NS
Sweetness	**	**
Citrus	NS	NS
Synthetic	NS	NS
Softness	***	***
Cheesiness	***	***
Astringent	NS	NS
Cr aky	NS	NS
Volume	***	(17.4) ***

	Intermediate Phase II	
	Significance clear	Significance diverse
Softness	***	***
Flavour intensity	NS	(3.0)NS
Juicy	NS	NS
Sourness	**	**
Sweetness	NS	NS
Citrus	NS	NS
Synthetic	NS	NS
Softness	***	***
Cheesiness	***	***
Astringent	NS	NS
Creaky	*	(0.7) NS
Volume	***	(12.8)**

	End Phase	
	Significance clear	Significance diverse
Softness	***	***
Flavour intensity	NS	
Juicy	NS	
Sourness	*	*
Sweetness	NS	
Citrus	NS	
Synthetic	NS	
Softness	***	***
Cheesiness	***	(17.3) **
Astringent	NS	NS
Creaky	**	(1.2) NS
Volume	***	(24.5)***

Conclusion:

Concerning the texture, the standard in all four phases is significantly softer and more cheesy than the trial. It is known that a softer product releases the taste faster
5 than a harder product. Accordingly, the chosen standard formulation is more likely to release the flavour in the initial phase corresponding to the finding that the rest in the end phase demonstrate increased impact, flavour intensity, sourness and a juicy taste.

Sourness is an indicator of freshness. Despite the harder product, the decreased
10 synthetic taste clearly seen in the test profile 1 and 2, is also indicated in the present profile even though it is only in the coating that the natural lemon powder is present.

Furthermore, preliminary test by use of natural freeze-dried mint, spearmint, and eucalyptus in the coating has resulted in increased taste sensation compared with
15 use of ordinary flavour components.

CLAIMS

1. A chewing gum comprising
 - a) an insoluble gum base;
 - 5 b) a water soluble portion;
 - c) a coating comprising a flavouring agent wherein at least 10 % by weight of the flavouring agent is a natural vegetable flavouring agent.
2. A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein at least 20% by weight such as at
10 least 30 % by weight preferable as at least 40%, more preferred at least 50%, still more preferred at least 60% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent.
3. A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein at least 70 % by weight such as at
15 least 80%, preferable at least 90%, more preferred at least 95% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is natural vegetable flavouring agent.
4. A chewing gum according to claim 1 wherein at least 95 % by weight such as at
least 98%, preferable about 100% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is
20 a natural vegetable flavouring agent.
5. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating in the coating is selected from fruit and herbs.
25
6. A chewing gum according to any of claims 1- 5 wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating is the is selected from coconut, grape fruit, orange, lime, lemon, mandarin, pineapple, strawberry, raspberry, mango, passion fruit, kiwi, apple, pear, peach, strawberry, apricot, raspberry, cherry, pineapple, grapes, banana,
30 cranberry, blueberry, black current, red current, gooseberry, and lingon berries, thyme, basil, camille, valerian, fennel, parsley, camomile, tarragon, lavender, dill, cumin, bergamot, salvia, aloe vera balsam, spearmint, peppermint, eucalyptus and mixtures thereof.

7. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claim wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is dried.
8. A chewing gum according to claim 7 wherein the water content of the natural
5 flavouring agent in the coating is less than 75% by weight, such as less than 60%, preferable less than 40%, more preferred less than 30%, such as less than 25%.
9. A chewing gum according to claim 7 wherein the water content of the natural
10 flavouring agent in the coating is less than 20% by weight, such as less than 15%, more preferred less than 10% such as between 1.5-7%, more preferred between 2-6%.
10. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is freeze-dried.
15
11. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is in the form of a powder, slices or pieces of combinations thereof.
- 20 12. A chewing gum according to claim 11 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is in a form where the particle size is less than 3 mm, such as less than 2 mm, more preferred less than 1mm, calculated as the longest dimension of the particle.
- 25 13. A chewing gum according to claim 11 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is in a form where the particle size is from about 3 μ to 2 mm, such as from 4 μ to 1 mm.
- 30 14. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating comprises seeds from a fruit e.g. from strawberry, blackberry and raspberry, and which seeds are substantially intact.

15. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating also provides the chewing gum with natural colour.
- 5 16. A chewing gum according to any of the proceeding claims wherein the natural flavouring agent is used in the coating of the gum and in the chewing gum formulation.
- 10 17. A chewing gum according to claim 16 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating and in the chewing gum formulation provides natural colour to the chewing gum.
- 15 18. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating provides the chewing gum with a basic colour
19. A chewing gum according to claim 18 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating provides the chewing gum with a basic colour as well as more intense colour spots.
- 20 20. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims comprising from 5% to 85% by weight of a gum base material.
21. A chewing gum according to any of the preceding claims comprising one or more of the following:
- 25 at least one softener; a bulk sweetener; a high intensity sweetener; an emulsifier; an elastomer plasticizer; an elastomer; a mono-diglyceride; a sucrose fatty acid ester.
22. A method for preparing a chewing gum composition comprising providing a mixture of
- 30 a) an insoluble gum base; and
b) a water soluble portion;
c) forming chewing gum pieces

d) coating the chewing gum pieces with a coating comprising a flavouring agent wherein at least 10 % by weight of the flavouring agent is a natural vegetable flavouring agent.

- 5 23. A method according to claim 22 wherein at least 10 % by weight such as at least 20%, preferable at least 30%, more preferred at least 40% by weight, such as about 50% of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent.
- 10 24. A method according to any of claims 22 and 23 wherein at least 60 % by weight, such as at least 70%, preferable at least 80%, more preferred at least 90% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent.
- 15 25. A method according to any of claims 22 to 24 wherein at least 95 % by weight, preferable at least 98%, such as about 100% by weight of the flavouring agent in the coating is a natural vegetable flavouring agent.
26. A method according to any of claims 22 to 25 wherein the natural vegetable
20 flavouring agent in the coating is selected from fruits and herbs.
27. A method according to claim any of claims 22-26 wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating is the is selected from coconut, grape fruit, orange, lime, lemon, mandarin, pineapple, strawberry, raspberry, mango, passionfruit, kiwi,
25 apple, pear, peach, strawberry, apricot, raspberry, cherry, pineapple, grapes, banana, cranberry, blueberry, blackcurrent, redcurrent, gooseberry, and lingonberries, thyme, basil, camille, valerian, fennel, parsly, camomille, tarragon, lavender, dild, cumin, bargamot, salvie, aloe vera balsam, spearmint, peppermint, eucalyptus and mixtures thereof.
- 30 28. A method according to any of claims 22 to 27 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is dried.

29. A method according to any of claims 22 to 28 wherein the water content of the natural flavouring agent in the coating is less than 75% by weight, such as less than 60%, preferable less than 40%, more preferred less than 30%, such as less than 25%.

5

30. A method according to any of claims 22 to 29 wherein the water content of the natural flavouring agent in the coating is less than 20% by weight, such as less than 15%, more preferred less than 10% such as between 1.5-7%, more preferred between 2-6%.

10

31. A method according to any of claims 22 to 30 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is freeze-dried.

32. A method according to any of claims 22 to 31 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is in the form of a powder, slices or pieces or combinations thereof.

33. A method according to claim 32 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is in a form where the particle size is less than 3 mm, such as less than 2 mm, more preferred less than 1 mm, calculated as the longest dimension of the particle.

34. A method according to any of claims wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating is in a form where the particle size is from about 3 μ to 2 mm, such as from 4 μ to 1 mm.

35. A method according to any of claims 22 to 34 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating comprises seeds from a fruit e.g. from strawberry, blackberry and raspberry, and which seeds are substantially intact.

30

36. A method according to any of claims 22 to 35 wherein the natural vegetable flavouring agent in the coating also provides the chewing gum with natural colour.

37. A method according to any of claims 22 to wherein the natural flavouring agent is also used in the chewing gum formulation.

38. A method according to any of claims 22 to 37 wherein the natural flavouring
5 agent in the coating provides natural colour to the coating.

39. A method according to claim 38 wherein the natural flavouring agent in the coating provides the chewing gum coating with a basic colour as well as more intense colour spots.

10

40. A method according to any of claims 22 to 39 wherein the gum base material constitutes from 5% to 85% by weight of the chewing gum.

41. A method according to any of claims 22 to 40 comprising adding one or more of
15 the following ingredients to the chewing gum formulation:

at least one softener; a bulk sweetener; a high intensity sweetener; an emulsifier; an elastomer plasticizer; an elastomer; a mono-diglyceride; a sucrose fatty acid ester.

42. Use of a natural vegetable component as flavouring agent in the coating in a
20 chewing gum as described in any of claims 1-21.

43. Use according to claim 42 wherein the natural vegetable component comprises cellular material of the natural component.

25 44. Use according to claim 43 wherein the cellular material comprises substantial intact cellular components.

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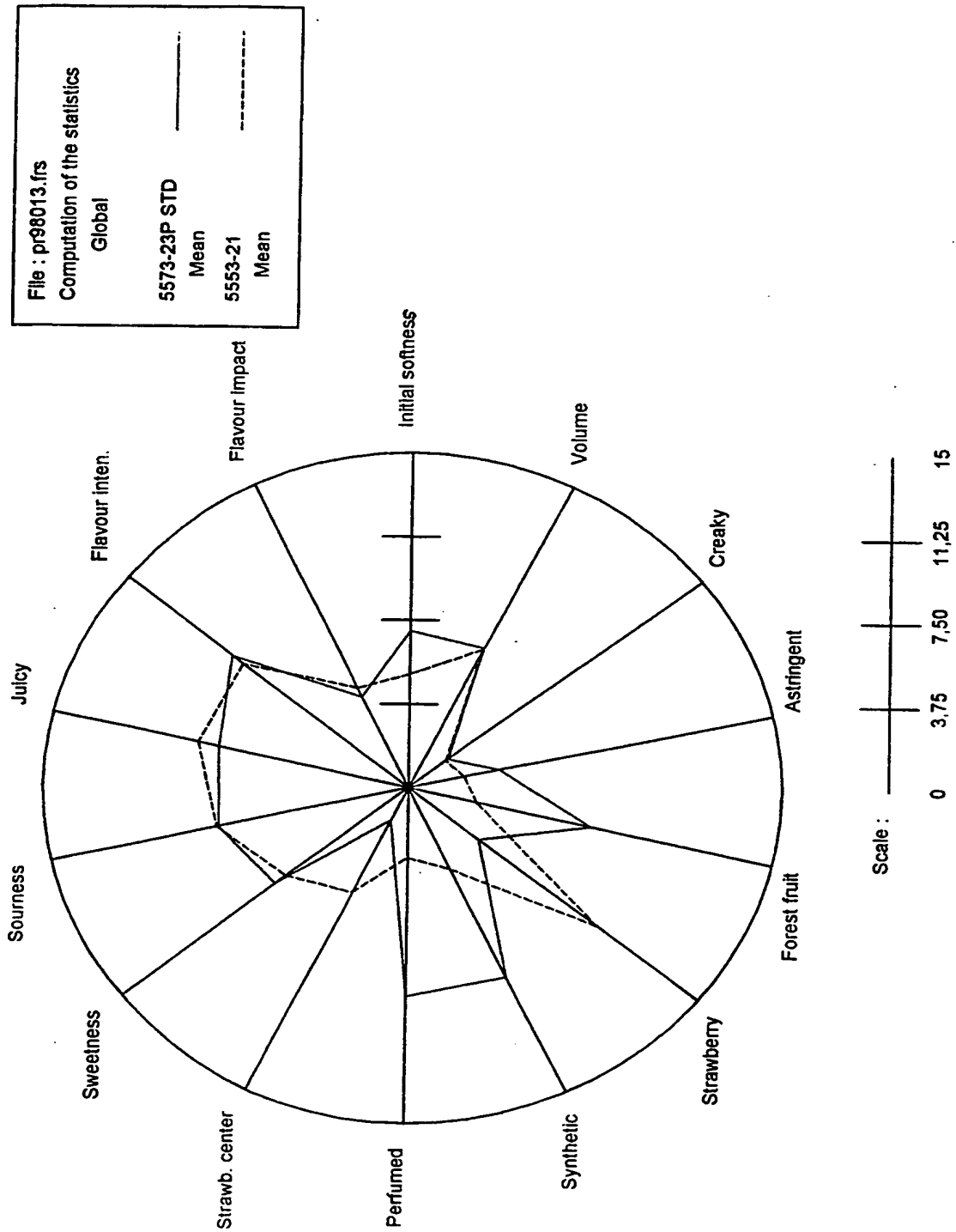


Fig. 1

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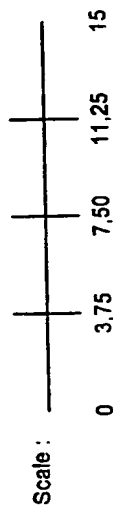
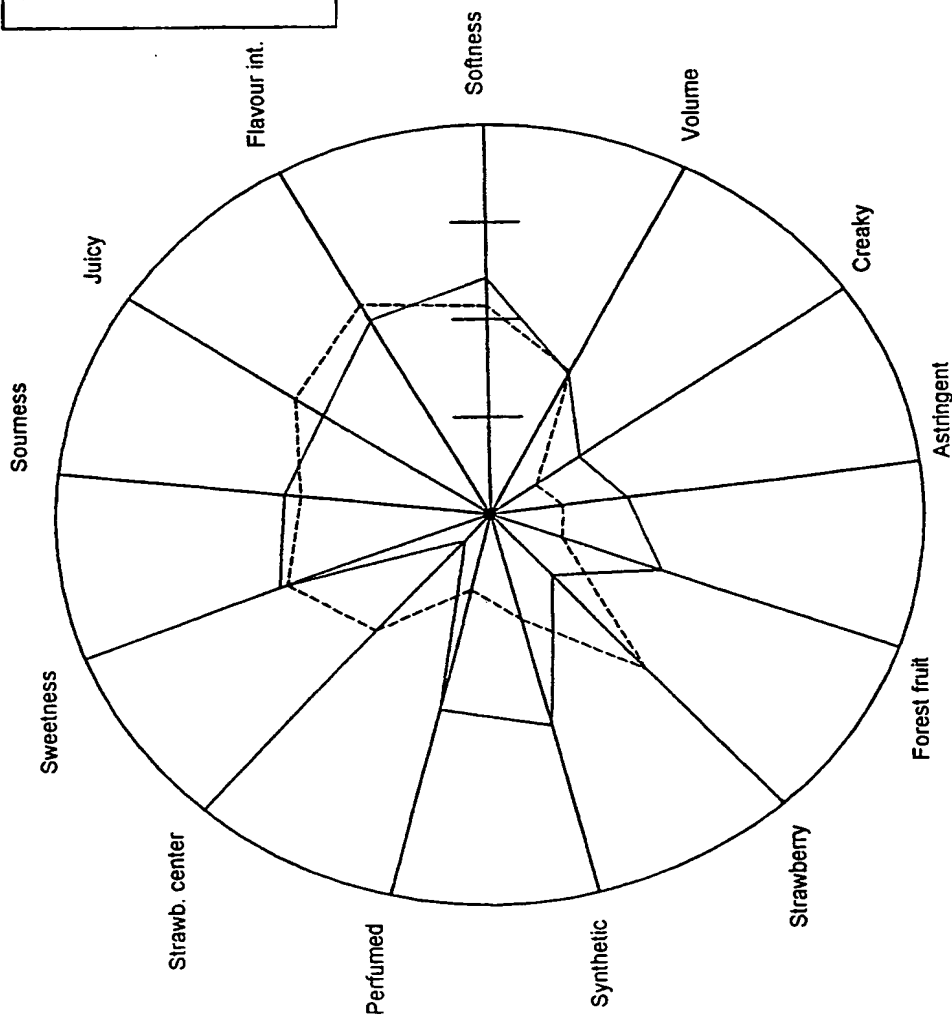
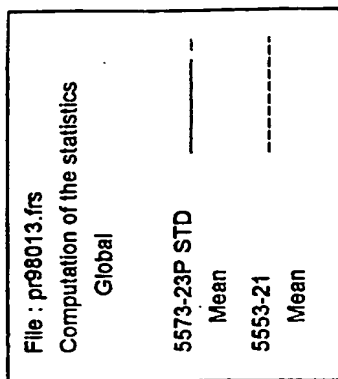


Fig. 2

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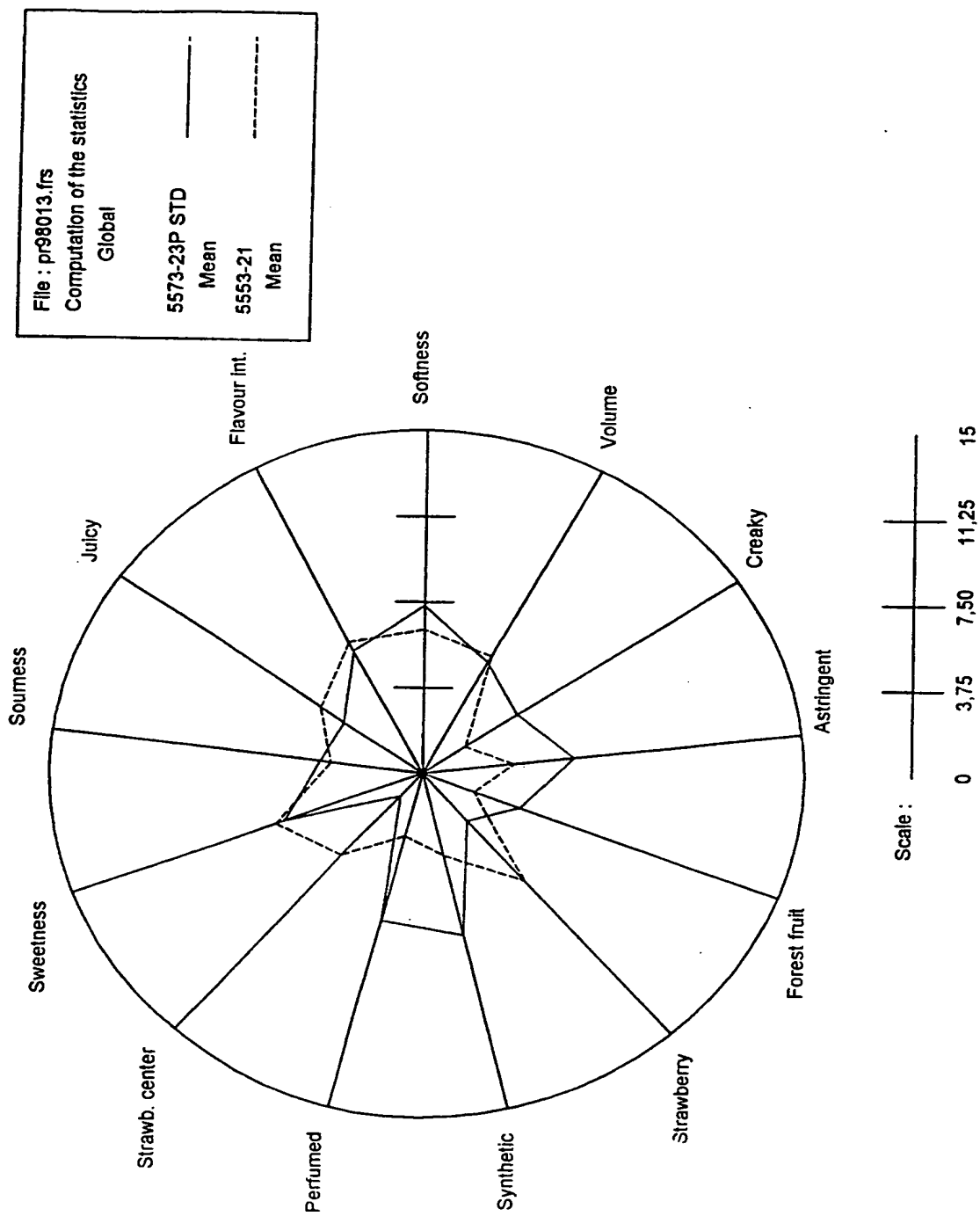


Fig. 3

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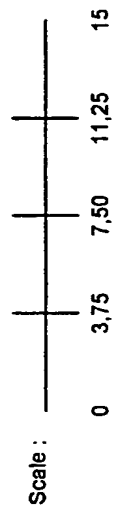
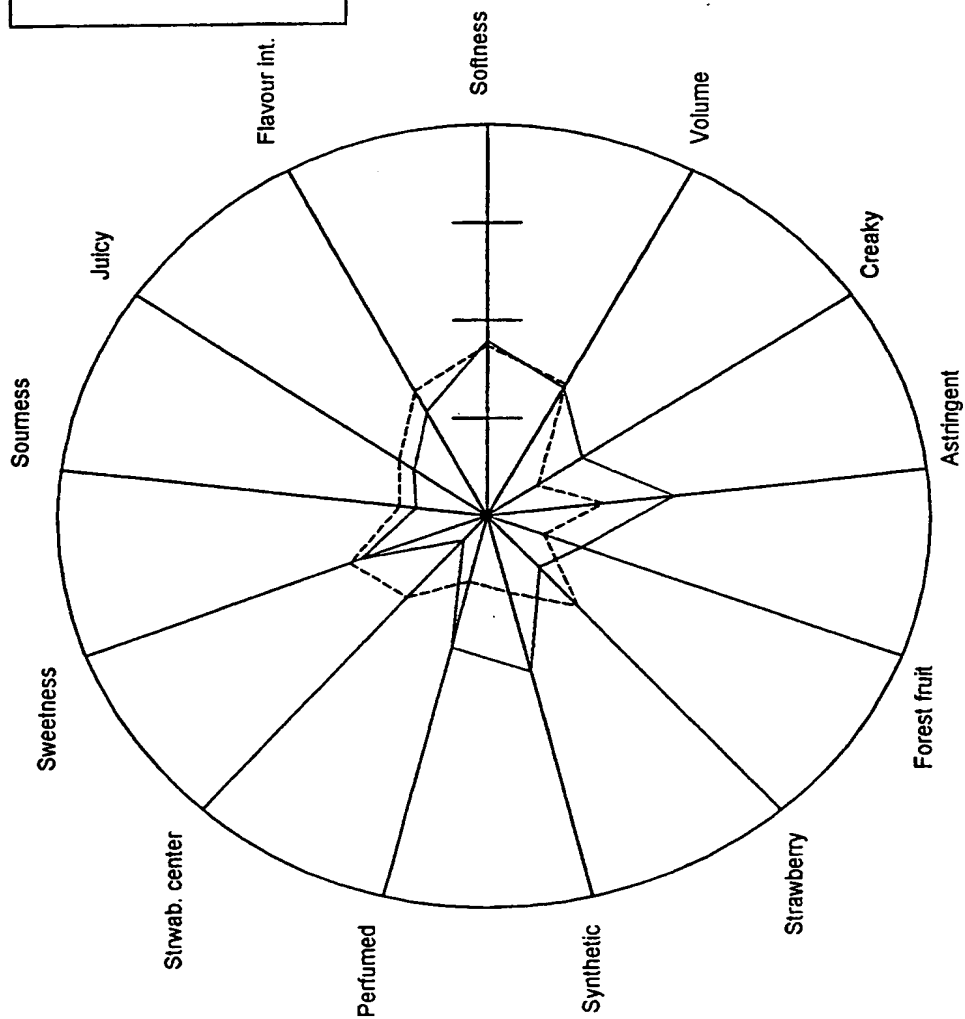
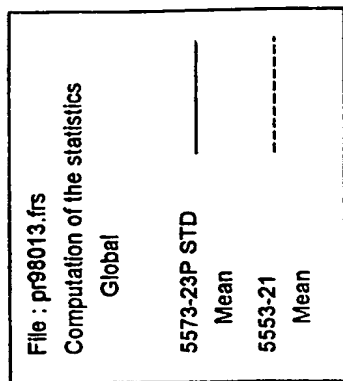


Fig. 4

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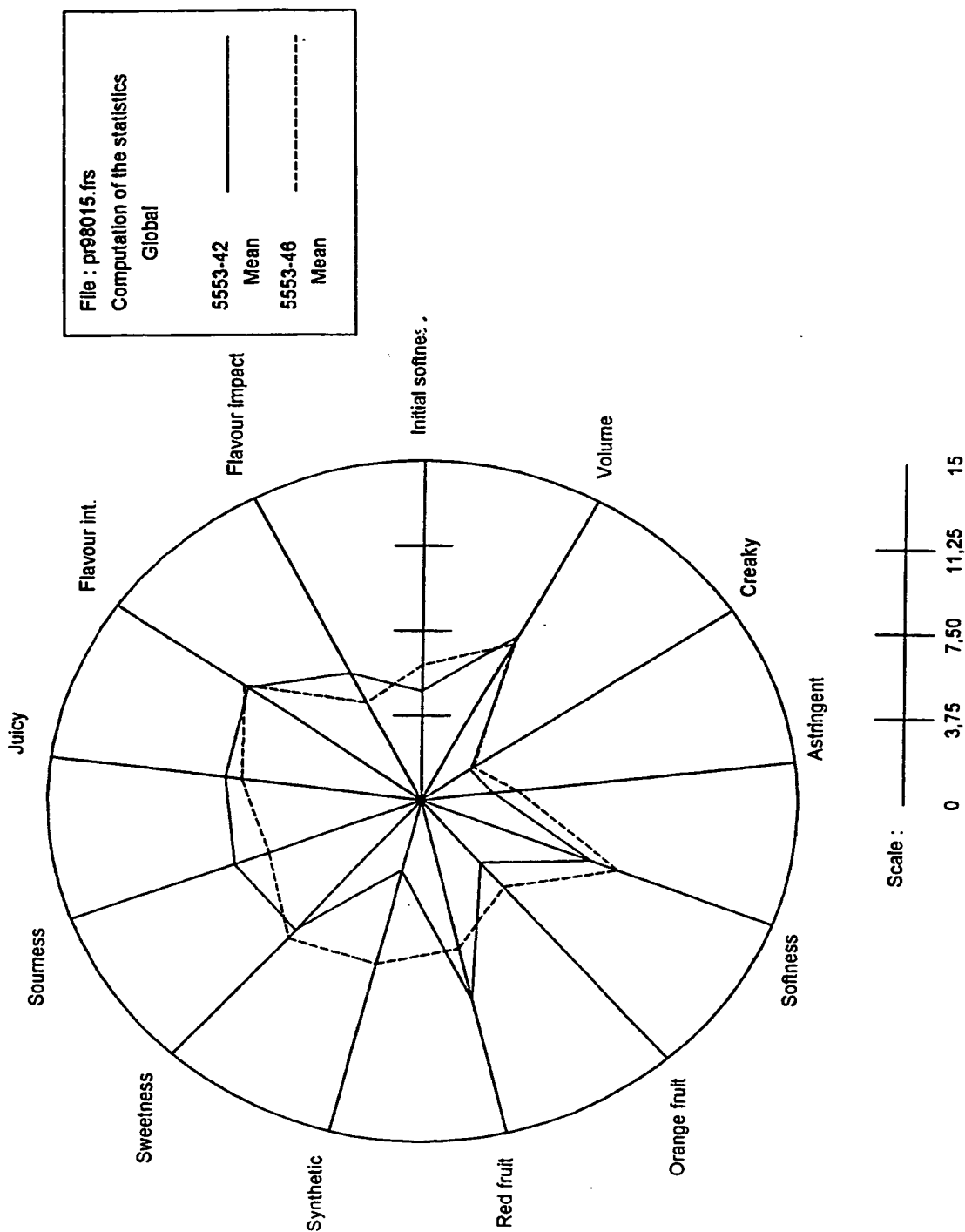


Fig. 5

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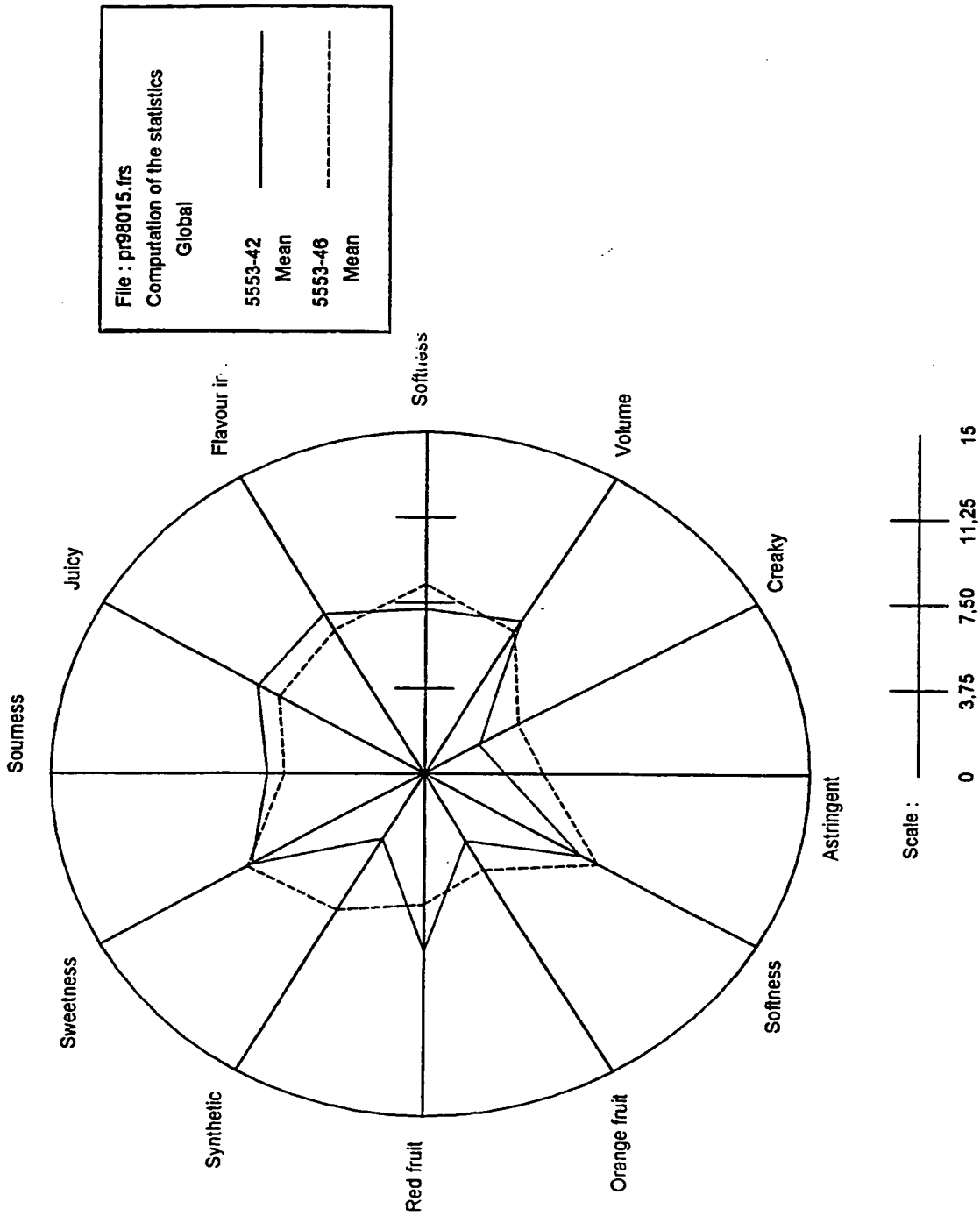


Fig. 6

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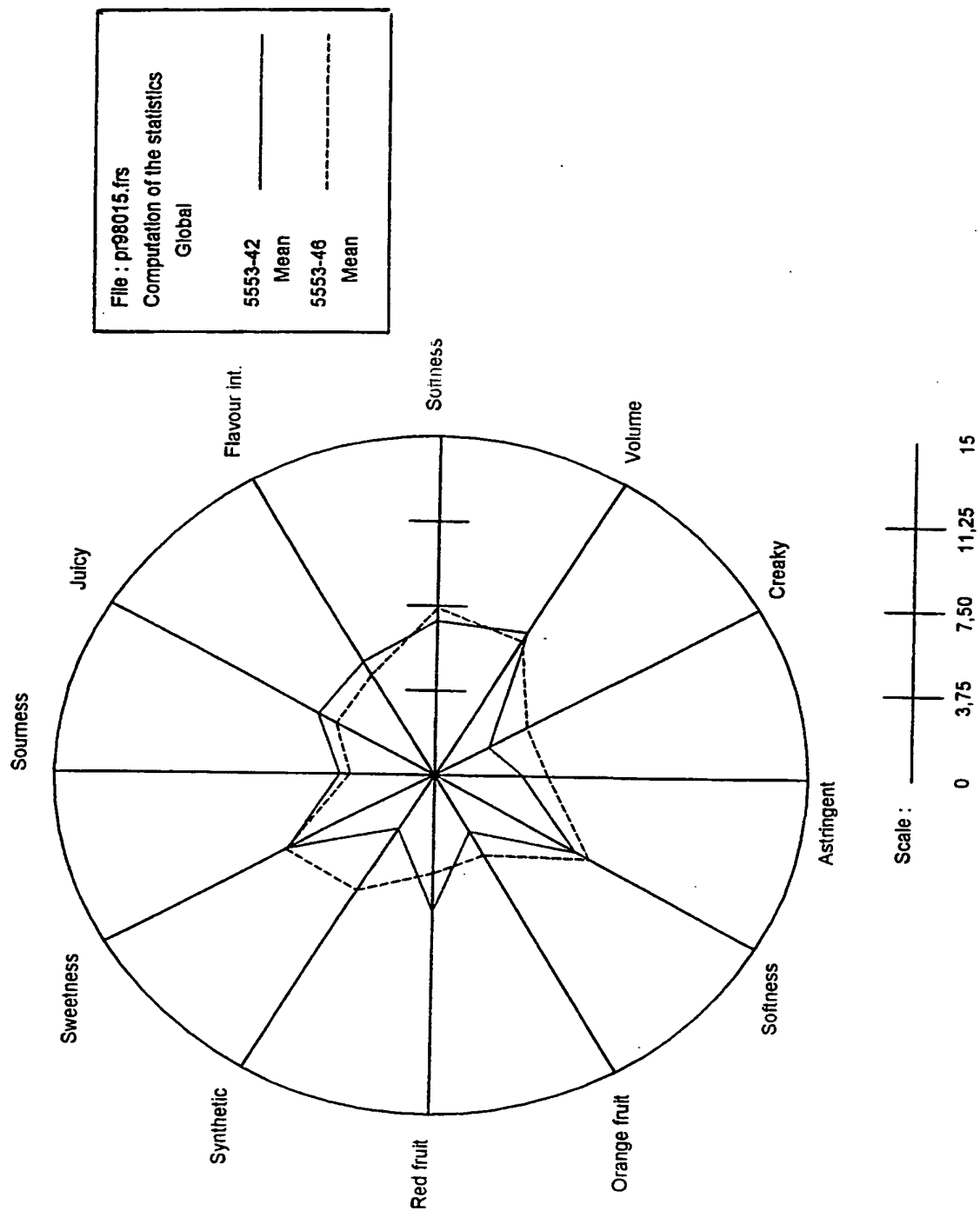


Fig. 7

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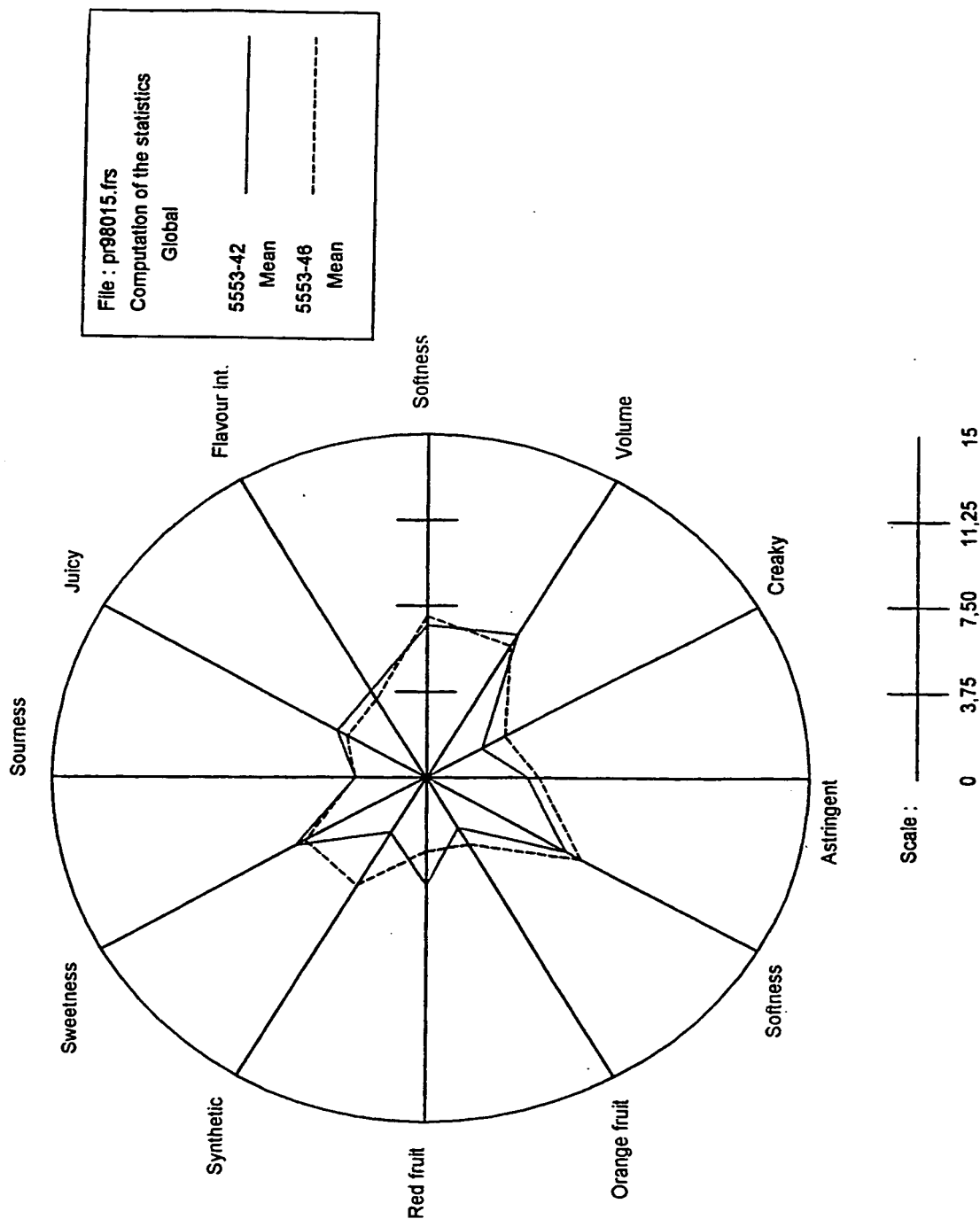


Fig. 8

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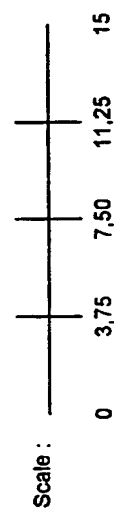
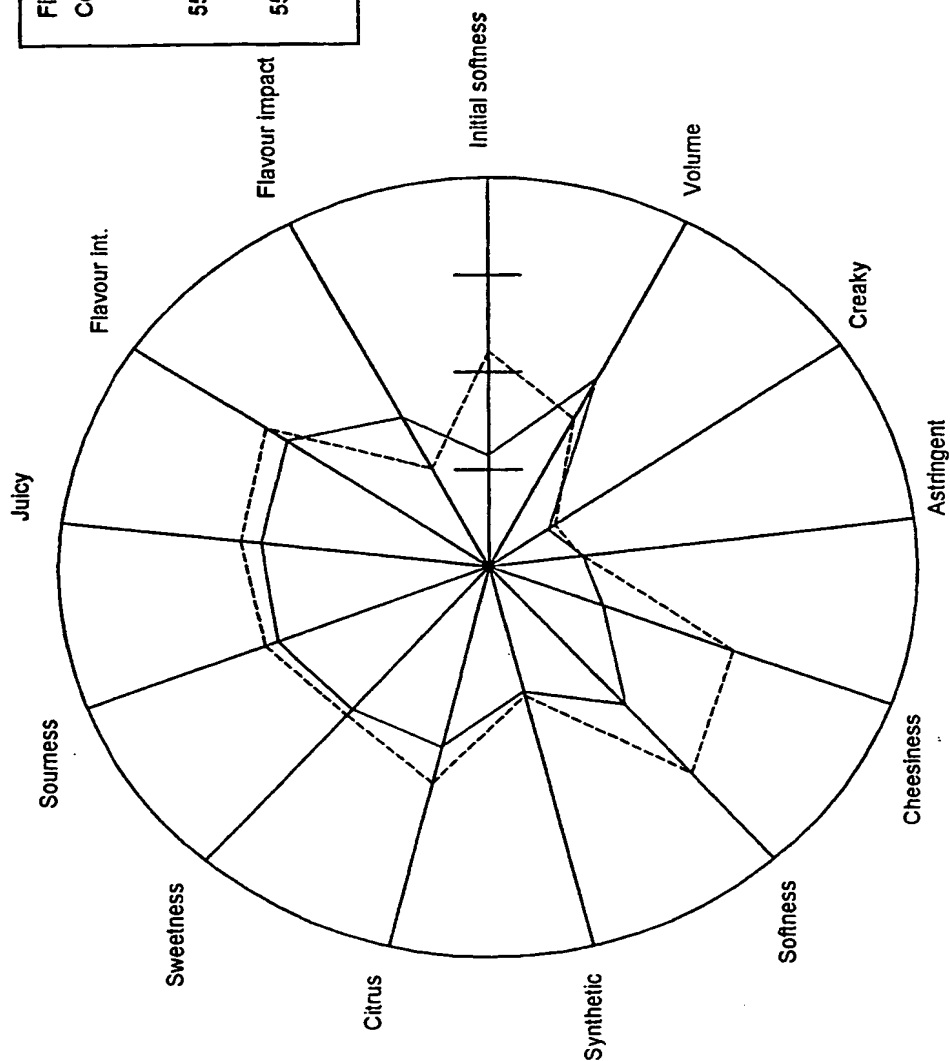
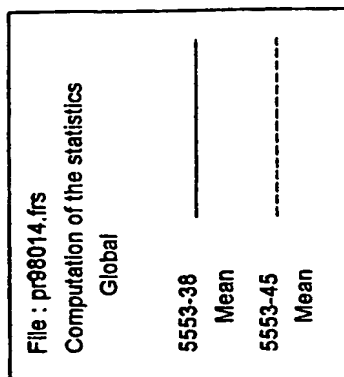


Fig. 9

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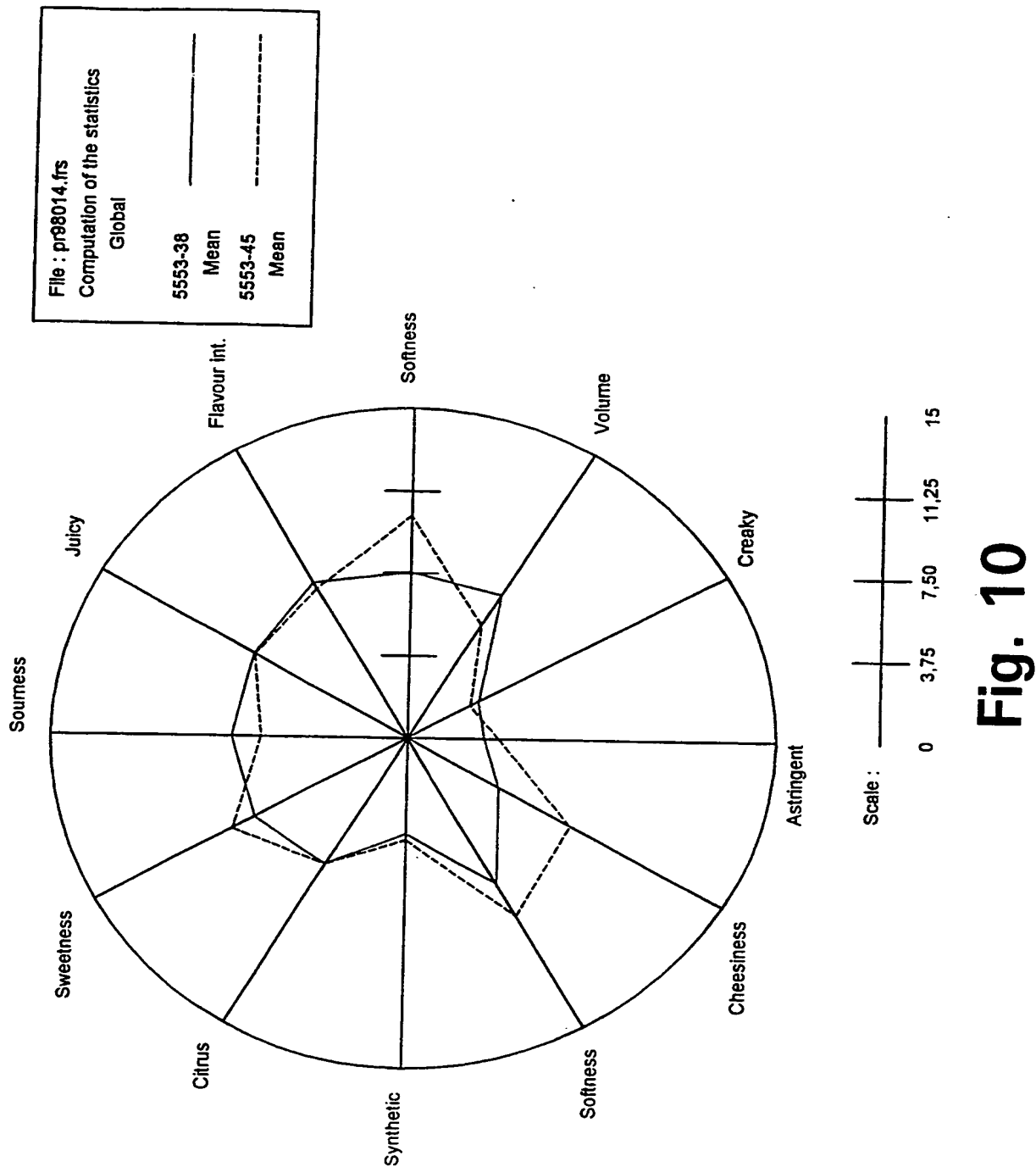
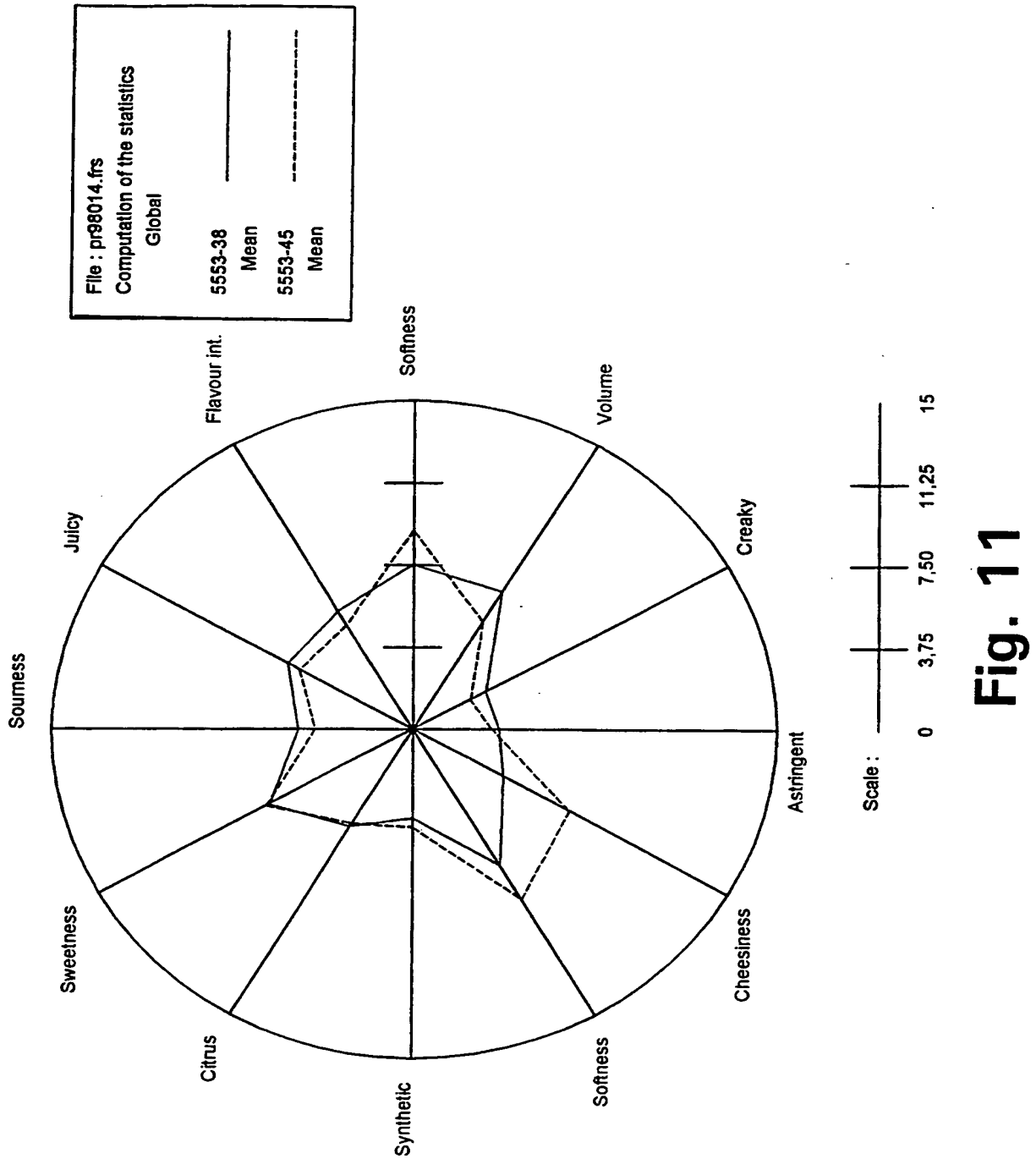


Fig. 10

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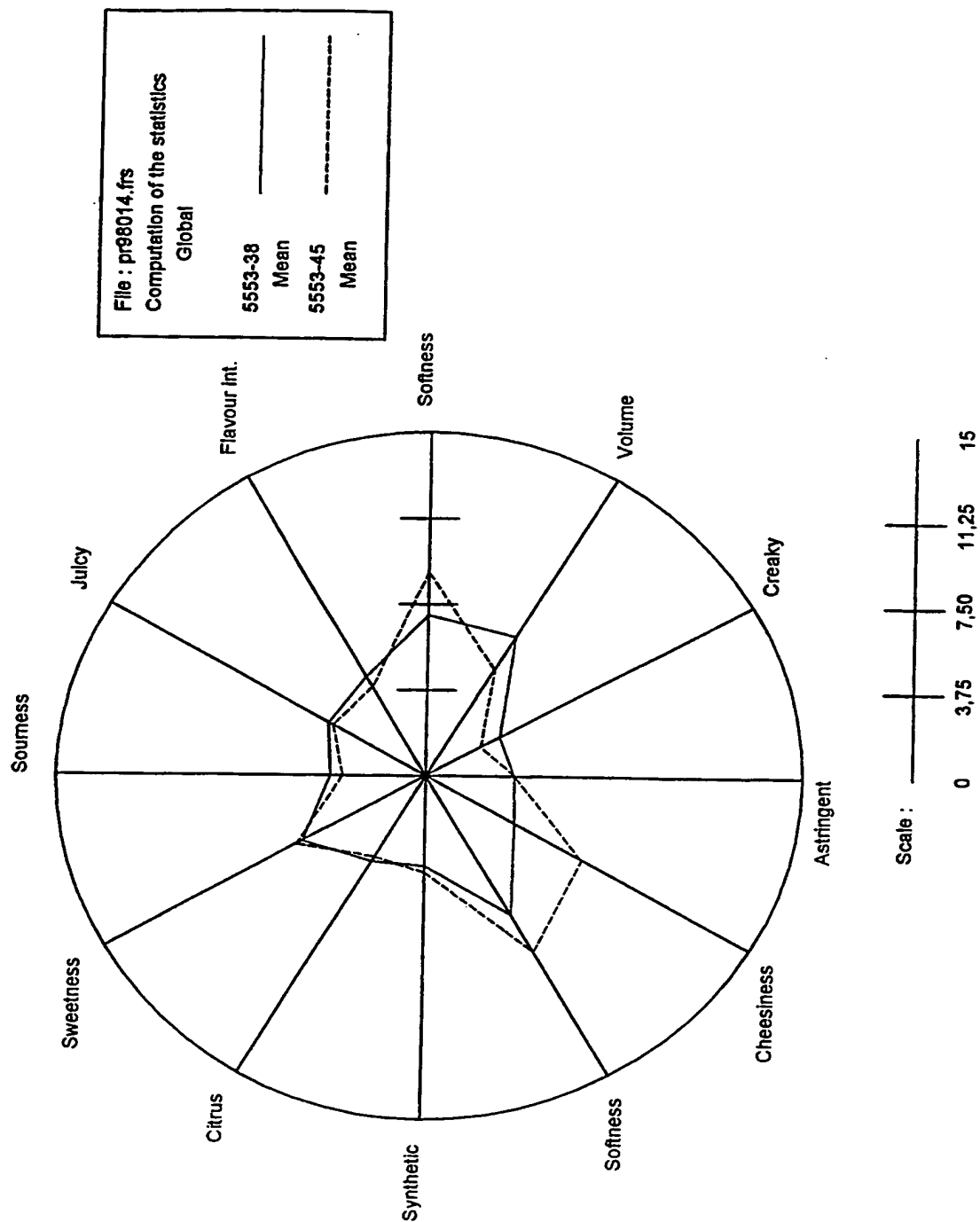


Fig. 12